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'Great Books' and the Western canon
 Books

Mobutu hits the road
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Bus-bombing victim returns to Israel
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Eizenstat: Nazis traded Holocaust victims' gold

By MARILYN HENRY
 WASHINGTON - The gold buy and dental fillings of concentration camp victims were traded with the bank gold plucked by the Nazis, then resmelted and traded abroad. That was one of the conclusions of the long-awaited American report on Nazi gold released yesterday.

son to fear German invasion, the report said, noting that the Swiss were the principal bankers and financial brokers for the Nazis, handling vast sums of gold and hard currency.

came in for some criticism in the Eizenstat report, it was fairly mild, highly qualified and shy of any major discovery.

In many ways, it appeared that the revelation was that the American government had just discovered some of the Allied role in the Holocaust.

"No country, including the United States, did as much as it might have or should have to save innocent victims of Nazi persecution - Jews, Gypsies, political opponents, and others," said the report. But it also noted that "none of these nations caused World War II or started the Holocaust."



US Commerce Undersecretary Stuart Eizenstat. (AP)

Jewish Agency demands West return Nazi loot

Jewish Agency Chairman Avraham Burg yesterday demanded that Western nations investigate their World War II activities. "It is clear that a lot of different governments around the world were involved in one way or another, and the immediate reaction is to seal all of the Western vaults, central or private banks with looted assets and to return them to Jewish hands," Burg said.

PM's Office: No spy in US gov't

By MICHAL YUDELMAN, HILLEL KUTTNER, and news agencies
 Israel vehemently denied that it is involved in any kind of espionage in the United States, responding to yesterday's Washington Post report that the FBI is probing "whether a senior US government official has been passing highly sensitive information to the Israeli government."

Comptroller: A grave report



State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat presents a copy of her annual report to Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon yesterday. (Isaac Harari)

By BAT SHEVA TSUR
 State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat has given Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein information about three incidents in which crimes may have been committed, that were uncovered during the research for her annual report, she told a news conference yesterday.

Ben-Porat would not disclose which cases had been referred to the attorney-general. But Israel Radio reported that one involved the prime minister's adviser on immigrant affairs, who was said to have directed funds to an association for immigrant teachers that he had founded. According to an unconfirmed report, another case involved the attempt to appoint

... arrives, Page 2

... National Security Agency...
 ... source, code-named "Mega" ...
 ... Ben-Elissar had asked ...
 ... to ask Mega to get him "a sensitive American document." ...
 ... Warren ...
 ... gave Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat ...
 ... the Hebron evacuation agreement. ...
 ... reported that, according to a source who viewed a copy of the NSA transcript of the conversation, the intelligence officer, speaking in Hebrew, said, "The ambassador wants me to go to Mega to get a copy of this letter." ...
 ... the source said the supervisor in Tel Aviv rejected the request, saying, "This is not something we use Mega for." ...
 ... said US officials believe Mega may be someone in the US government who provided information to Israel in the past. ...
 ... Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu declined to comment on the report, but his spokesman strongly denied it. "There is not a shred of truth to it. It is simply a fabrication," the spokesman said.

Continued on Page 2

Israel, the world's 2nd healthiest country

By JUDY SIEGEL
 Despite dire warnings by politicians and doctors of the medical system's impending financial collapse, Israel is the second healthiest country in the world, according to a statistical analysis compiled by the Economist Intelligence Unit in London and published in the *Healthcare International* quarterly.

Peled: I didn't equate IDF, Nazis

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH
 Deputy Education Minister Moshe Peled was surprised yesterday to learn that cabinet secretary Danny Naveh demanded he retract statements comparing the IDF to the Nazis.

Yitzhar settlers rebuild demolished structures, Page 2

he's talking about," Peled said last night, adding that he was absolutely amazed to hear the charges.

Full comptroller report coverage, Pages 8-12
 Analysis: Tze'elim ghosts haunt Barak, Page 2

Ben-Porat mulls Barak probe

State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat reopened a Pandora's box yesterday, when she told reporters she is considering a new probe into whether MK Ehud Barak, a contender for leadership in the Labor Party, acted properly in the training accident at Tze'elim in 1992, when he was chief of general staff.



509007

Settlers rebuild demolished houses

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH and MICHAL YUDELMAN

Settlers in Yitzhar began rebuilding three houses on a hill-top some 800 meters east of the settlement yesterday, less than 24 hours after security and civil authorities forcibly evacuated about 30 protesters and demolished the structures. No IDF troops were present.

Meanwhile, yesterday's security cabinet meeting turned into a stormy political debate, as a number of ministers sharply criticized the demolition.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai both came under fire. They reportedly assured the ministers that the demolition did not indicate a change of policy.

Yitzhar secretary Yehuda Lieberman said three temporary structures, made from wood and canvas, had been erected so that three families would be able to move in. One of the families has 10 children.

He said a steady stream of visitors arrived at the site to show support. "The phones didn't stop ringing," he added.

But the only politician to show up was MK Rehavam Ze'evi (Moleket), who told Israel Television: "This government carried out what no other government before dared to do."

Yesterday morning, leaders of the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza informed Netanyahu that they would not show up for a scheduled meeting. "The council regards the demolishing of houses as an extremely serious incident, especially when people live in those houses," secretary-general Aharon Domb said in an interview on Arutz 7 radio.

But, he added, "It appears that although Netanyahu supports



Women carry their young children past a partially rebuilt home in Yitzhar yesterday, as settlers work to rebuild the three illegal homes demolished by authorities on Tuesday.

Mordechai, he was totally unaware of the events taking place in Yitzhar."

Domb said the demolition was obviously planned to coincide with the meeting that took place on Tuesday night between President Ezer Weizman and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat.

A toast to celebrate Independence Day, organized by OC Central Command Maj-Gen. Uzi Dayan, was also boycotted by most of the invited local and regional council heads in Judea and Samaria.

"How can I look Dayan in the

eye and toast Independence Day after the present he gave us," Domb said.

Netanyahu reportedly told the security cabinet that, "One event, no matter how regrettable, should not be taken out of proportion. The general policy of this government is to strengthen communities in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza."

However, Agriculture and Environment Minister Rafael Eitan, Education Minister Zevulun Hammer, National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon, and Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky expressed outrage at

Mordechai's decision to demolish the buildings.

Mordechai declared that the illegal buildings had been built on state land that was outside the settlement's boundaries.

Countering claims that Palestinians continue to build illegally without any threat of demolition, Mordechai said that 144 illegal dwellings were demolished in 1996 and 72 had been demolished so far this year, 12 in the last few days.

Eitan said that when he saw the pictures of the brutal evacuation, he almost cried. "I was so

shocked; it reminded me of pictures of the Holocaust. If another government had acted this way, we would have screamed to high heaven and created an explosion," he reportedly said.

"If this government can do such things, what is the justification for forming it?" Sharon reportedly said.

Netanyahu expressed reservations about the way the demolition was carried out, but gave Mordechai his full support. He said the demolition had nothing to do with the Weizman-Arafat meeting.

Hope grows as Ross arrives

Jerusalem Post Staff and agencies

US envoy Dennis Ross arrived yesterday for meetings with Israeli and Palestinian leaders, amid hopes for an American initiative that might break the two-month impasse in peace talks.

Media reports said Ross brings proposals that include tradeoffs such as an Israeli freeze on settlement construction and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat resuming the sharing of intelligence information, which was cut off in March.

Ross made no comment as he entered the Prime Minister's Office last night for talks with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, Cabinet secretary Danny Naveh, and advisers Dore Gold and Yitzhak Mordechai joined them for the first part of the meeting.

Ross is to meet with Arafat and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak today, after meetings with President Ezer Weizman, Netanyahu, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, and Foreign Minister David Levy.

Senior Netanyahu aide David Bar-Illan said yesterday he expects Ross's presence would lead to progress.

"Whenever Ross is here there is some movement in the peace process and it is usually positive," Bar-Illan said, while cautioning

against expecting a breakthrough. "There are efforts to create mutual trust," Levy said of the Ross visit. "We are encouraging and supporting this."

Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat said that, "The solution is in the hands of Dennis Ross... We hope he is coming to save the process."

Talks stalled in March after Israel broke ground for Har Homa in Jerusalem. Arafat has said Israel must stop the construction before talks can resume. Meanwhile, Israel is insisting that the PA crack down on terror and reestablish full security cooperation.

Ross's visit comes a day after Weizman met with Arafat. After that meeting, Weizman said Arafat agreed to resume contacts between senior security officials, but the Palestinians conditioned this on the presence of US officials at all meetings.

"It is not bilateral coordination, it is trilateral, with coordination of the United States," Arafat said yesterday.

Media reports said Israeli and Palestinian security officials, as well as representatives from the Central Intelligence Agency, would meet today.

A government source said the presence of the Americans is mainly in order to enable the Palestinians to "save face."

Settlers, political Right: We'll still support PM

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Some 800 people gathered last night to air their views regarding the present government at a conference sponsored jointly by the Land of Israel Front and the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza at the Jerusalem International Conference Center.

Amid calls to oust Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, who was called directly responsible for the demolition of three houses in Yitzhar on Tuesday, the general consensus was to support the present government and point Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu in the right direction.

"People view Mordechai as

being directly responsible for the anti-settlement sentiments in the government," said council spokeswoman Yehudit Tayar. "The idea was to gather and allow people to air their views."

Speakers included MK Benny Elon (Moleket), who called the government the "best of the worst we have to fear."

MK Michael Kleiner, head of the Land of Israel Front, stressed the importance of keeping continuous pressure on Netanyahu. "So he will not bend."

"Netanyahu must be forced to rejoin the national camp and be forced to strengthen building throughout Judea, Samaria, and Gaza and not destroy them," Tayar said.

ANALYSIS

Tze'elim ghosts continue to haunt Barak

By SARAH HONG

MK Ehud Barak, front-runner in the Labor leadership contest, last night welcomed State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat's interest in probing deeper into his role in the Tze'elim B tragedy.

Barak said he wants "the truth to come out. I am sure that the comptroller's examination of the events would exonerate [me]. A short, quick examination could bring the truth to light."

No other reaction could be expected from Barak. He all but had to say what he did, his political allies said.

But the fact is, it was agreed in most party quarters that there is no way the comptroller's words added to his political health. An aide to one of Barak's rivals in the June 3 party leadership primary said yesterday that Barak wanted and needed the controller's probe about as much as Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu wanted the police investigation into his role in

the Bar-On Affair. Netanyahu, too, said the aide, had to call for an investigation, exuding confidence that he would be vindicated.

The few sentences the comptroller devoted to the Tze'elim B affair yesterday were enough to cause ripples of excitement throughout the party. The consensus was that, even though it was certain that the comptroller would have no findings by primary day, the nuances of Barak's problem, it was said, was that he was not let off the hook and, worse, that the comptroller brought back to the surface an event which he had hoped would have by now sunk far beneath the current political agenda.

As things stand now, the cup for him is both half full and half empty.

Barak booster MK Haggai Merom pointed to the former yesterday, noting that, "after all, the comptroller did not make accusations. She has no overwhelming compelling evidence against him. Nothing had been proved."

Merom is technically right. But, as he spoke, anti-Barak forces in the party were eagerly pointing to the empty half of the cup. While they were careful not to pronounce Barak guilty, they referred to him as "soiled."

Their argument between now and June 3 would be to put a question mark on Barak's suitability to go forth as Labor's candidate for prime minister. They will warn that in the event that Barak wins the nomination, he will be open to unceasing attacks from the Right for his behavior on the day of the Tze'elim tragedy, as well as on his overall responsibility for the shortcomings that led to what happened and for the ensuing coverup.

Labor, their argument would be, needs a candidate who is unencumbered by such baggage and whose past will not divert attention from current issues.

Will this argument work to Barak's detriment? The bet around Barak is that it won't—not as far as the primary is concerned. In an

actual future election, the matter may come back to haunt him, but even then it will only underscore prevalent tendencies and will not tilt the pendulum one way or the other. The press will not go after Barak and it will be left to his political foes to unleash this weapon.

In the final month before the pri-

mary, the feeling in Barak's entourage is that the extent of the shadow the Tze'elim B affair will cast on him depends solely on the eye of the beholder. Those antagonistic to Barak's aspirations will perceive a dark shadow, while, to those who firmly supported Barak from the outset, it will be largely invisible.

SPY

Continued from Page 1

Ben-Eliassar vehemently denied the claim, calling the story "absolutely baseless."

"Israel is not involved in any form of trying to obtain intelligence on the US. Maybe we are dealing with a malicious source whose intention is to damage the good and friendly relationship between Israel and the US."

"Israel does not do things of this nature," Foreign Minister David Levy told reporters. "Our diplomats throughout the world, and in particular in the United States, of course, do not deal in things like this. They have clear instructions."

GRAVE

Continued from Page 1

• Thousands of habitual traffic offenders remain on the roads, even though they are twice as likely to be involved in accidents. People who have their licenses revoked for life have at times had them reissued.

• Thousands of people have been waiting for years for subsidized rental housing, while Housing Ministry companies have failed to identify and assign available apartments.

• The Health Ministry's efforts to prevent the spread of AIDS are uncoordinated and often ineffective.

• Over half of those applying for income maintenance from the

National Insurance Institute lie on their applications but succeed in getting the allowances anyway.

• The Trans-Israel Highway will increase pollution, ruin the central region's landscape, and still not solve the traffic bottlenecks it is meant to solve.

• The program to get computers into the schools is being mismanaged, with some schools still waiting for computers and others using obsolete machines.

Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi, who heads the Ministerial State Control Committee, said the report had been studied at a series of intensive meetings. The ministers had already made 23 decisions with regard to the 60 bodies and ministries that came under review, he said, adding it is not always possible to make improvements immediately.

"We will deal with all issues of political appointments. They have existed under previous governments, but they must no longer be the norm," he said. "With regard to public funds, we will assure that they are distributed according to the regulations and that they reach their targets," he added.

Liat Collins adds:

The Likud is to debate the State Comptroller's Report at a special Knesset session today. A spokesman said the party in particular condemns the fact that bodies affiliated with the previous government were granted greater funding by the Meretz-run Education Ministry. The Likud also accused former attorney-general Michael Ben-Yair of using a double standard in deciding not to prosecute officials of the previous government.

MK Dalia Itzik, head of the Labor Party response team, said: "The grave report by the state comptroller determines that [Prime Minister Binyamin] Netanyahu has failed in the administration of his office and bureau and he should immediately resign."

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Mildred and David Devor
on the untimely passing of
AVIVA ז"ל
Max Blankstein Amnon Shinar
Chairman, IRC Director General

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of our beloved
AVIVA (Varady) DEVOR
David S. Devor
Mildred Devor
Marshall Devor and family
Nissan and Elaine Varady and family
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partly also due to the... critics of the Government are on trial for subv...

US-Israeli laser project lacks funds

\$50m. required for testing, radar capability

By DOUGLAS DAVIS

LONDON - The \$89 million joint US-Israeli project to develop a high-energy laser response to short-range rocket and artillery attacks requires a further \$50 million if it is to result in a fully deployable system, according to US Army officials quoted by the London-based *Jane's Defense Weekly* yesterday.

The US is currently contributing \$39.5 million to the project, while Israel's share is

\$29.5 million.

The pilot program was initiated last May to help Israel develop a deterrent against Hizbullah rocket and artillery attacks from south Lebanon. It followed the earlier Nautilus project, which was a limited effort to test the effectiveness of lasers as tactical air-defense weapons.

The main contractor for the program is the US firm TRW, which is making and testing the initial operating system. Officials at the US Army's Missile Defense

and Space Technology Center said funding for the current program, which is scheduled to conclude next March, relates only to testing at TRW's site in California.

The additional funds are necessary to test the system at the US Defense Department facilities and in Israel, a necessary precondition for the system's integration into Israeli command and control structures.

In addition, while the test model draws on components of the Arrow anti-missile system, the operational anti-rocket laser weapon

would require its own radar capability.

US officials also note that agreement has yet to be reached with Israel on the terms of the technology transfers that will be involved in completed systems that are delivered to Israel. Army officials are quoted as saying that some of the technology is highly classified and cannot be transferred without safeguards against transfer to third countries.

Israeli sub-contractors in the project include Israel Aircraft Industries, Rafael and Tadiran.

NEWS

in brief

Woman burns to death in car crash

The charred body of 23-year-old Hadass Meirav was found in her burned-out car yesterday morning near Moreshet in the North. It is believed that while driving back to Safed early in the morning she drove into a tree and her car caught fire.

All Education Ministry programs in Safed to celebrate Independence Day were cancelled due to the tragedy. Her father, Uzi Meirav, is the principal of a Safed school.

In a collision near Tiberias yesterday morning, one person was killed and three injured. The injured were taken to Tiberias's Poriya Hospital. *Itim*

Turkey: Navy exercises with Israel no threat

Turkey said yesterday that joint naval exercises in the eastern Mediterranean it plans to hold soon with Israel and the US do not pose a threat to neighboring countries.

"We have said many times that this type of cooperation is being carried out without targeting any country in the region. We think it would be useful to underline this again," Foreign Ministry spokesman Sermet Atacanli told reporters. Iran and much of the Arab world have expressed unease at Turkey's growing defense ties with Israel. Atacanli said the exercises would be carried out this summer. *Reuters*

Jordan to give PA copies of land documents

Jordan is ready to hand over to the Palestinian Authority copies of maps and real estate registration documents for the West Bank. Ibrahim Mismar, director-general of Jordan's Lands and Survey Department, said yesterday the decision was made in response to a Palestinian request. He said the Palestinians earlier this year asked for help in distinguishing between land claimed by families and public or unclaimed land that would be under the PA's control. *AP*

US: Palestinian death threat disturbing

The State Department said it would be "very disturbing" if a Palestinian Justice Minister Freih Abu Medein threatened to impose the death penalty on any Palestinian who sold land to Jews. "We have seen the reports of statements made by Palestinian officials on that subject," spokesman John Dinger said Tuesday. "We are looking into the matter, but cannot confirm it at the moment. If true, clearly that would be very disturbing." *AP*

Colombian president meets Netanyahu, Arafat

Colombian President Ernesto Samper met yesterday with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu in Jerusalem. The Prime Minister's Office issued a statement saying Netanyahu briefed Samper on the peace process. Samper also held talks with Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat in Gaza. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

Machpela open today to Moslems only

Because of the Moslem New Year, the Machpela Cave will be open only to Moslem worshippers between 4 a.m. and 9 p.m. today. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

Nahal and Gadna to combine

By ARNIE O'SULLIVAN

In an effort to cut out duplication, IDF Chief of General Staff Lt. Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak has ordered that the Nahal Brigade and the pre-military Gadna youth movement be combined.

The ruling follows an investigation into IDF units having overlapping functions, the IDF said. Nahal and Gadna are to be consolidated under one "special command," which is to focus its efforts on reaching out to Israeli youth.

Shahak also ruled that the Nahal Brigade and members of Nahal settlement groups are to work with youth "as part of an overall effort to strengthen the link between the IDF and Israeli youth before their conscription."

According to the IDF, the Nahal Brigade is to be subordinate to the Central Command and not spread across the country as it is now, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai approved the changes, which are to be implemented shortly, the IDF said.

The changes follow a revamping of the Defense Ministry's Youth and Nahal Branch, spearheaded by reserve brigadier Yehuda Duvdevani. Among his main goals were to spotlight national values to the youth, to increase identification with the IDF, and to boost motivation among youth before they are drafted.

The Nahal wing of the IDF mixes army service with settlement and is supported by youth movements. But the number of settlement groups or groups of youths consolidated from youth movements serving in Nahal has dwindled to a minority in the corps.



Levy greets Austrian foreign minister

Visiting Austrian Foreign Minister Wolfgang Schüssel (left) is greeted by Foreign Minister David Levy yesterday. Schüssel is to meet today with President Ezer Weizman and Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu. *(Bryan McBurney)*

Levy to visit Jordan

By MICHAL YUDELMAN

Foreign Minister David Levy has been invited to visit Jordan and the date of his trip will be set within a few days, he said yesterday.

Expressing optimism about Israel's relations with Jordan and resuming talks with the Palestinians, Levy said, "There is no crisis with Jordan and the whole thing [the cancellation of Tuesday's memorial ceremony at Naharayim] was blown out of proportion. The joint interests are real and important to both countries. I'm pleased with the state-

ments made by Crown Prince Hassan and the prime minister and indicate they are interested in strengthening the peace and believe we can solve any problem."

Levy also hinted there may be progress in the talks with the Palestinians before long, saying, "There is no alternative to the peace process and both sides know it and want to advance it. I hope the opportunity to do this is very close. We must resume the talks and the meetings of the joint committees, because there is no choice."

Border Police anti-infiltration unit displayed

By ARNIE O'SULLIVAN

The Border Police showed off its special anti-infiltration unit, some operating on ATVs, in the latest edition of the IDF weekly *Bamahane*. The unit, called Matlan, tries to catch Palestinians trying to sneak across the Green Line and has been operating for the past year.

Matlan is an acronym for the Hebrew words for intelligence, lookout, firing, combat, and mobility.

"These are small and quick units," said Cmdr. Yisrael Sadan, head of the Border Police. "They are aided with new high-tech equipment and carry out night ambushes using advanced camouflage methods."

The unit was set up following changes in the deployment of the Border Police, whose task is to patrol the 360 kilometer-long Green Line.

According to *Bamahane*, each unit contains a small number of patrolling teams made up of both border policemen serving their three-years of mandatory military service and members of the permanent force. All have been trained at the Border Police commando school and gone through a course in military intelligence.

The unit functions around the clock, supplying information to soldiers and police guarding the border. While most of those trying to sneak into Israel are Palestinian laborers without work permits who come looking for jobs, some are infiltrators trying to carry out attacks or pass on information.

"The units' main goal is to supply intelligence information, but they also have the capability to open fire," Sadan was quoted as saying.

The units were recently equipped with ATVs to give them greater freedom of movement, the weekly said.

Border Police personnel chief Asst.-Cmdr. Dani Lau was quoted as saying that the new units may soon be opened to women, but this depends on future funding.

Despite the establishment of the unit, many living in settlements along the Green Line have complained that hundreds and even thousands of Palestinians sneak across with apparent ease every day.

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I wish to express my deep gratitude to the following organizations for their generous contributions to the building of the "Nof Ha'emek" Senior Citizens' Home in Nazareth Illit:

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- ★ Joint, Israel

Menachem Ariav
Mayor of Nazareth Illit

COMMON DESTINY

A memorial ceremony organized by ATID - the Partnership of Pluralistic Zionist Youth Movements, comprising the Israeli Scouts - Tsolim, Hadassah's Zionist youth movement - Young Judea, and the Federation of Zionist Youth of Great Britain, will take place on Thursday, May 8, 1997 (1 Shivan 5757), at Ammunition Hill, Jerusalem, at 7:30 p.m.

Parallel events will be held simultaneously by ATID in New York and London

Live Internet broadcast of the event at: <http://www.virtual.co.il> (click "ATID")

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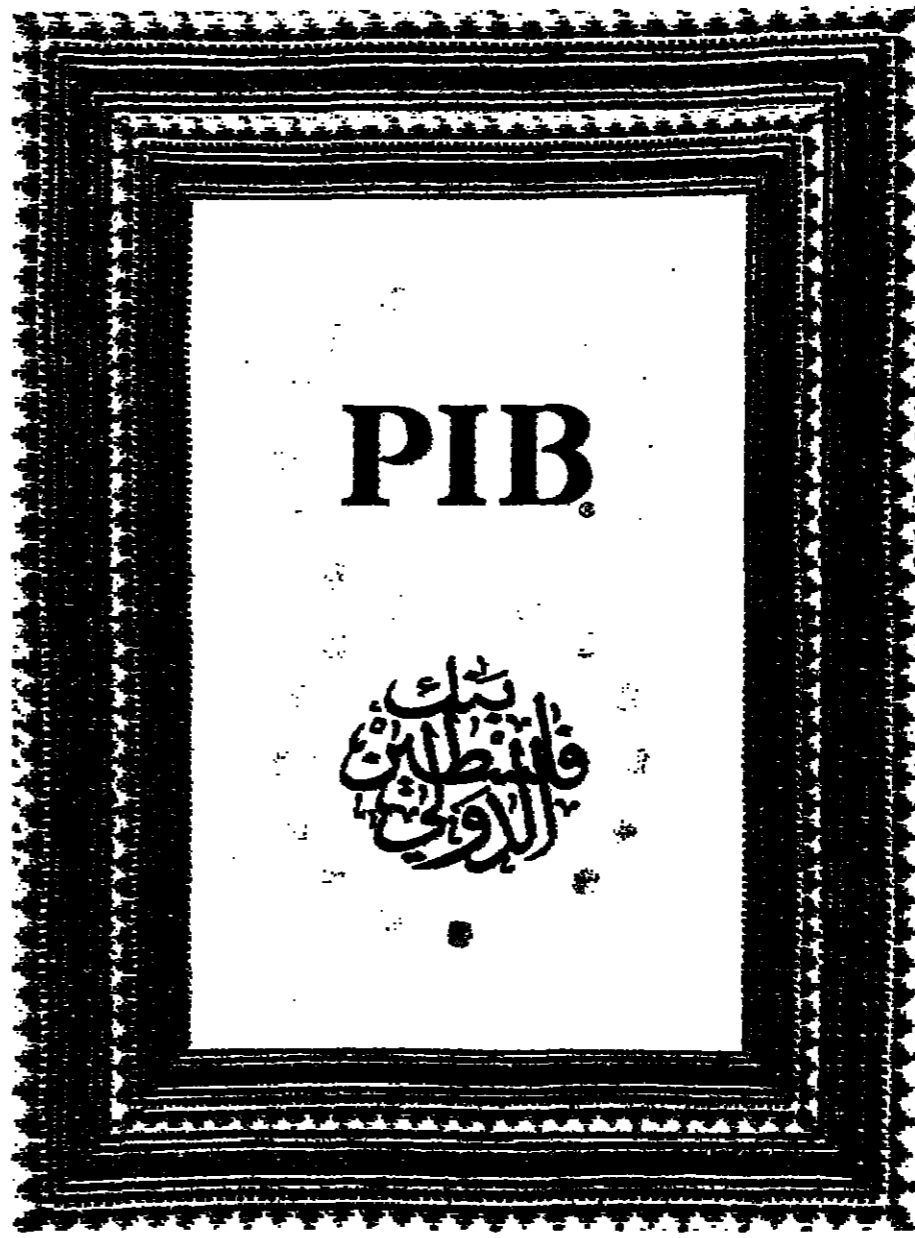
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UN convicts Serb for war crimes

First such guilty verdict since Tokyo, Nuremburg tribunals

THE HAGUE (AP) — A Bosnian Serb was convicted of crimes against humanity yesterday by a UN court in the first international war crimes trial since World War II.

The Yugoslav war crimes tribunal found Dusan Tadic guilty of 11 of 31 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity for atrocities committed during Bosnia's war.

He was acquitted of all nine murder charges against him.

The 41-year-old karate expert and former cafe owner — charged with murder and torture in and around three Serb-run camps in northwest Bosnia in 1992 — stood impassively as the verdicts were read, scribbling notes on a pad.

Tadic, wearing a dark suit, striped shirt and red tie, was escorted out of the court by two UN guards and sent back to his detention cell. As he left, he waved to someone in the public gallery.

The three-judge panel's verdict was the first following an international trial since military tribunals in Tokyo and Nuremberg sent 17 Axis leaders to the gallows. It came a year to the day after the trial began.

Tribunal spokesman Christian Chatter hailed yesterday's 301-page verdict as "a judicial condemnation of the ethnic cleans-

ing policy."

Though Tadic was cleared of the murder charges, he was found guilty of 10 charges of beatings, some loosely considered as torture, and was convicted of a broad charge of persecution which included the killings of two Moslem police officers. For that count, he was not specifically found guilty of murder.

The Hague tribunal has no death penalty, and it was unclear whether he would face a maximum life sentence for the deaths covered by the persecution count.

Tadic's lawyer, Milan Vujin, said he would appeal. Tadic told his lawyer he wasn't satisfied because "I'm not guilty," Vujin said.

Both sides have 30 days to appeal the verdicts, and Tadic's decision to contest it appeared likely to delay a July 1 sentencing hearing.

Tadic had pleaded innocent to all charges, claiming he was a victim of mistaken identity swept up by authorities frantic to find scapegoats for atrocities in Bosnia.

A complete acquittal would have raised doubts about the UN tribunal's ability to gather ironclad witness testimony on atrocities that happened during the 3 1/2-year Bosnian war, which

ended in 1995.

Mirza Hajric, an adviser to Alija Izetbegovic, the Moslem president of the joint Bosnian presidency, said the verdict confirmed the Bosnian government's claims "that the Serbian regime has been undertaking, in an organized manner, crimes against humanity and genocide."

"Tadic was a hand of the genocide, but the brains — Radovan Karadzic and Gen. Ratko Mladic — are still at large," Hajric said. "As long as they are free, chances are small for the Dayton peace accord to be implemented."

"Although this is the first trial conducted by the international tribunal and thus has some historic dimension, the goal of the trial chamber was always first and foremost to provide the accused with the fair trial to which he was entitled," said presiding judge Gabrielle Kirk McDonald of the United States.

"This, we believe, has been done."

Tadic was acquitted of a murder charge stemming from a now-infamous case in which prosecutors allege he forced one Moslem inmate to bite off another's testicle.

But the court ruled he was there, and found him guilty of war crimes and crimes against



Nicola Kastic (left) and Milan Vujin, defense lawyers, look on at the start of the Yugoslav War Crimes Tribunal's session in The Hague yesterday. The court convicted their client, Dusan Tadic, for war crimes and crimes against humanity.

humanity for beatings that led to the sexual mutilation.

Among the indicted suspects still wanted by the tribunal are former Bosnian Serb leader

Radovan Karadzic and his wartime army chief, Gen. Ratko Mladic. Both have been indicted twice for genocide for their responsibility for atrocities com-

mitted by Bosnian Serb forces during the war.

But Serbian authorities refuse to extradite any of their citizens to the UN court, which was set

up by the Security Council in 1993 and has no police force to go out and arrest suspects. The majority of indicted suspects are Serbs.

Central America at peace looks to Clinton

By ELOY G. AGUILAR

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica (AP) — Eight years ago at a summit of Central American leaders, President Bush called Nicaragua's Daniel Ortega an "unwanted animal at a garden party."

It was 1989, the last time a US president met with the region's leaders. Manuel Antonio Noriega, the Panamanian dictator, was in his last months in power as the United States prepared to invade.

El Salvador's leftist rebels were about to launch their biggest urban offensive. And the Guatemalan army was fighting it out with guerrilla groups.

Today, Nicaragua's Sandinistas and Noriega are gone from power. A peace treaty was signed in El Salvador, and the rebels recently won the election for mayor of the nation's capital.

In Guatemala, the government and the guerrillas put an end to their 30-year war.

President Clinton arrived in Costa Rica last night from

Mexico, and the Central American presidents who will meet with him today hope that the United States will help them in peace as much as it did in the region's wars.

"Central America has become democratic," former Guatemalan President Ramiro de Leon Carpio said. "We have overcome electoral fraud, authoritarianism and war. We now have an incipient democracy, but a democracy nevertheless."

The meeting Bush attended in 1989 was organized by former Costa Rican president and Nobel Prize winner Oscar Arias to mark 100 years of democracy in Costa Rica.

The United States was openly backing the Contra rebels fighting Ortega's Sandinista government while providing military aid to the Salvadoran regime.

At the meeting, Bush had to shake hands with Ortega, who showed up in his military uniform, prompting Bush to call him "a boy scout."

Last week in Managua, Ortega said: "It was a different situation

then, and that was why our relationship was tense."

The region encompassing Guatemala, Belize, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama and 29 million people, is now at peace after decades of civil wars in which either governments or the rebels that tormented them depended on the United States for military hardware.

Panamanian President Ernesto Perez Balladares declined the invitation, claiming it did not have any significant role for Panama.

His decision is not seen as a snub but an effort to emphasize Panama's ties to South, not Central, America.

"We have high hopes for this meeting," added de Leon Carpio, one of the architects of the Guatemalan peace treaty. "The United States has helped us in war, but does not help us in time of peace."

The states want partnership in the North American Free Trade Agreement, which now includes the United States, Canada and Mexico.

Chirac enters election fray

News agencies

PARIS — Left-wing leaders and media commentators brushed off French President Jacques Chirac's first intervention in a tight parliamentary election race yesterday as unlikely to sway voters to back his center-right coalition.

Chirac waded into the campaign for a May 25-June 1 election with an assault on the record and platform of the left-wing opposition and an appeal for voters' trust and support.

"I need your support to continue the work we have begun together and which can only bear fruit over time. Let's seize our opportunity in a shared elan," he said in an article in 14 regional newspapers on the second anniversary of his election.

But left-wing leaders said Chirac had offered no new ideas, and many newspapers denied the honor of publishing his opinion column entitled *A Shared Elan* took offense.

Socialist European affairs expert Elisabeth Guigou said the president's "elan has fallen as flat as badly cooked soufflé."

His conservative coalition facing a toughening election campaign with the left, Chirac asked voters to break with the past and preached stronger market-oriented reform.

"France needs new vigor," Chirac wrote. "Our world is undergoing irreversible evolutions. Are we going to turn our backs ... or seize our chance?" The open letter marked Chirac's two years as president.

Chirac abruptly dissolved the National Assembly last month and called new parliamentary elections for May 25 and June 1 — 10 months early. Since then, polls have shown the governing conservatives' lead narrowing against the Socialists, though many voters are undecided.

Chirac explained the snap elections as necessary to form a mandate for Premier Alain Juppe's policies of fiscal austerity.

"I need your support to pursue the work that we have started ... which will bear fruit only in time," Chirac wrote.

The elections are "for the French to have their say on the contents and direction of this new step," he wrote, adding that "political stability is indispensable for the reforms to work."

Since Chirac's election May 7, 1995, France has been torn by a series of sometimes paralyzing strikes against Juppe's efforts to cut government spending to trim France's budget deficit.

Chirac and Juppe want to cut the deficit from 4.2 to 3 percent of France's gross domestic product this year to qualify by the end of this year for the single European currency, planned for 1999. They contend joining the "euro" will help France, though it's likely to increase France's already record 12.8 percent unemployment in the short run.

Chirac's letter mentioned neither political parties nor politicians, but it blamed France's eco-

nomie and social problems on previous leftist governments.

The Socialists headed governments in France for nearly 14 years.

"We find ourselves with a state that does too much: social protections more and more costly and less and less useful," the president wrote.

Socialist Party leader Lionel Jospin — who lost to Chirac in 1995 but would likely be his prime minister if the left wins the vote — said yesterday he would write a similar letter to French newspapers.

Earlier, Jospin accused the governing majority of being "obliged to call the president" for help and cited some recent polls that show the leftists gaining on the conservatives.

But the most recent poll predicted Juppe's conservatives would win a solid majority: 302 seats in the 577-member National Assembly, with the Socialists and their allies winning 251 seats.

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Quebec leader planned secession

QUEBEC — Quebec's then-premier Jacques Parizeau would have declared the province's independence from Canada days after a separatist win in Quebec's 1995 referendum, according to excerpts published yesterday from his memoirs.

The revelation, excerpted in the Quebec City daily *Le Soleil*, contradicted promises by Parizeau in the campaign for the Oct. 30, 1995, Quebec referendum, which the separatists lost by less than one percentage point.

Parizeau resigned the day after the referendum, after blaming "money and the ethnics" for the defeat.

During the campaign, Parizeau agreed to wait about a year to negotiate the terms of separation. *Le Soleil* quoted Parizeau's book *For a Sovereign Quebec*, to be published in French this week, as saying that Parizeau agreed with France that sovereignty would have to be implemented "in the week or in the 10 days following a majority for the yes."

The French embassy in Ottawa declined comment yesterday. French support would have been key in ensuring Quebec's recognition by other nations such as the United States, Parizeau wrote.

"One week before the referendum, the operation meant to end up with the recognition of Quebec by France had begun," (Agencies)

Zaireans hope 'the leopard' never comes back

KINSHASA (Reuters) — Zaireans hope President Mobutu Sese Seko who left for talks in Gabon yesterday never returns.

"The leopard is finished. He is not coming back," shouted an onlooker outside Kinshasa airport as Mobutu's plane took off.

Mobutu, who ruled Zaire with an aura of invincibility for 32 years, is nicknamed the leopard.

Mobutu's close aides insist the president — under international pressure to step down — will be back in a day or two.

But his unceremonious departure added fuel to speculation that the embattled and cancer-stricken leader had taken a flight into exile to ease efforts to end the country's seven-month civil war.

"Will Mobutu finally agree to go?" headlined the opposition daily *La Tempete*. "The departure of Mobutu will avert the worst for Zaireans impoverished by 32 years of dictatorship."

Mobutu's heavily guarded motorcade took a detour from the main airport road, bypassing stronghold districts of Zaire's militant opposition. He was jeered there by people chanting "go for good" when he drove through last week on his way to Congo.

Soldiers had earlier driven reporters, news photographers and onlookers out of the airport perimeter when Mobutu and his wife of 17 years, Bobi Ladawa, were driven onto the tarmac.

Aides said 27 close associates had flown to Gabon the day before to prepare for the talks in the capital

Libreville. The streets of Kinshasa were crowded as Mobutu's motorcade swept to the airport, with many residents coming out to watch and openly ask if the strongman leader would ever return.

But the statutory groups of drummers and dancers wheeled out for presidential departures were absent. So were militants of Mobutu's MPR party, impossible to miss on such occasions in their brightly printed shirts sporting Mobutu's portrait.

There was intense security around the airport — a declared target of the rebels — and Mobutu left on his plane only about 10 minutes after his heavily guarded motorcade arrived.

Combat-ready troops were backed by armored personnel carriers, heavy guns and anti-aircraft weapons to protect him as he entered the VIP lounge. Hundreds of other troops were seen in buildings near the airport.

Mobutu's image of political invincibility has been rubbed by Laurent Kabila's rebels who now control about three quarters of Zaire's vast territory and are closing in on the capital.

"He will be back in 24 or 48 hours," said presidential spokesman Kabuya Lumuna.

But with Kabila's rebels saying they have the teeming city in their sights, newspapers in the city and ordinary Zaireans speculated that Mobutu, 66, would take advantage of the meeting to slip quietly into exile.

Lebanese Christians await pope

BKIRKI, Lebanon (AP) — Pope John Paul II's first visit to this Arab country Saturday comes as Christians here — once the ruling majority — fret over their declining numbers and influence.

The estimated 1.4 million Christians, most of them Catholic, now find themselves a minority whose influence has waned as that of Moslems has grown since the end of the sectarian 1975-90 civil war.

Sarkis Naoum, a columnist for the independent daily newspaper *An-Nahar*, estimates Christians now make up no more than 40

percent of Lebanon's 3.2 million residents.

"I am not very optimistic," he said, adding that the postwar political system needs more guarantees of a continued role for Christians.

Christian leaders — as well as Moslems — are careful to stress that the pope should show solidarity with all of the country, a mosaic of 18 religious sects sharing many of the same problems.

"This visit will be an encouragement for all the Lebanese to have confidence in themselves and in their country," said Cardinal

Nasrallah Sfeir of the Maronite Catholic Church.

The patriarch has emerged as something of an opposition leader facing the Syrian-backed government of Prime Minister Rafik Hariri.

The Syrian forces in Lebanon are to be a focus of the pontiff's two-day trip. He is to announce a response to the 1995 Vatican synod of Lebanese Catholics, which called for withdrawal of the Syrians, as well as Israeli. Hariri has said the pope's visit will have no effect on the Syrian presence.

Iran raises regional profile

DAMASCUS — Syrian President Hafez al-Assad yesterday held talks with Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati on the Middle East peace process and the situation in south Lebanon.

Presidential spokesman Joubran Kourieh said Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq al-Shara attended the meeting at the presidential palace. He gave no further details.

Velayati told reporters on arrival in Damascus earlier in the day he was carrying a message to Assad from Iran's President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani dealing with the Middle East situation and bilateral ties.

"It is important to convey to our Syrian brothers the outcome of my tour to coordinate and discuss our joint future moves," Velayati said.

He was expected to discuss with Syrian leaders the growing military cooperation between Turkey and Israel, which both Syria and Iran regard as a direct threat, and which filled Syrian newspapers yesterday.

Diplomats said Velayati's talks covered the situation in south Lebanon, where pro-Iranian Hezbollah is fighting the IDF. Velayati had talks in Beirut on Tuesday night with Hizbullah's secretary-general Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah.

"The talks dealt with Israeli aggression against the towns, villages and civilians and the role of the Lebanese resistance in confronting them," one official said.

The Iranian minister came from Beirut where he gave President Elias Hrawi an invitation to attend an Islamic summit in Teheran in December, his first ever visit there. He had given a similar invitation to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak before coming to Lebanon. (Agencies)

Read and weep

SURIE ACKERMAN

The more things change, the more they stay the same. Though governments come and governments go, it seems corruption, incompetence, and negligence remain.

Reading some of this year's State Comptroller's Report, made me wonder why we taxpayers have to support an office that spends tens of millions of shekels to produce a report many of us might feel we could have written ourselves.

Discriminatory allocations in the Religious Affairs Ministry? Gee, that's news. Patronage in the Housing Ministry? Ho-hum. Improper political appointments in the Prime Minister's Office? Hey, we're three-and-a-half months into the Bar-On Affair, we didn't need Miriam Ben-Porat to tell us about the prime minister's political appointments.

But though many parts of the report sound boringly familiar, there is still enough to scare. The most chilling part was the investigation of safety on school trips - completed long before the March 13 slaying of seven young girls at Naharayim, where they never should have been.

This means that months before the fateful trip by the Feurst School in Beit Shemesh was probably even planned, investigators from the State Comptroller's Office were poring over records, questioning ministry officials, and talking to principals and teachers. It must have been clear to someone, somewhere along the line, that the investigators were not happy with the answers, and that the report would be a damning one, as indeed it is.

Didn't the presence of the comptroller's auditors inspire anyone to make sure principals

The comptroller's report is more of the usual, plus enough to scare

and trip coordinators and guides exercised more care? Obviously not; had this been the case, seven families would probably not be grieving today.

That doesn't get you? Check out the reports on the defense establishment. Half the population doesn't have proper gas masks, and there's no money to continue distributing them. I sure hope the Syrians don't find out. Reservists aren't being trained properly, and we're counting on an awful lot of tanks that aren't being stored properly. Oh, and the air force has been cannibalizing some Yasur helicopters to upgrade others.

Remember the Yasur? Two of them collided in February in the North, killing all 73 servicemen aboard.

MAYBE you don't scare that easily. So get mad, instead.

There are people driving around who have been convicted of up to 148 traffic offenses. How does someone get a chance to accumulate that many convictions without being banned from the roads? In any case, banned drivers continue to drive and commit offenses; some even managed to get their licenses reissued and then had to be banned again.

Meanwhile, over a billion dollars is going to be spent on a poorly-planned highway that will wreck our landscape, increase pollution and still not solve the traffic problems it was meant to solve. Blank identity cards are available for the taking in some Interior Ministry offices. There's a lot of produce being smuggled in from the territories that's been irrigated and sprayed with who-knows-what.

And while funding funny-business is nothing new in the Religious Affairs Ministry, one still can't help but be taken aback by a government official who says very clearly that the concept of allocating money fairly is irrelevant.

In her report two years ago, Ben-Porat said, "It would seem that all values of morality and principles of truth and fairness have passed from the world." She was referring to the Religious Affairs Ministry, but that statement could apply to any of the ministries and agencies she writes about. After all, it is no more moral to let road risks continue to drive, or to ignore safety rules when you are in charge of other people's children than it is to favor one nonprofit organization over another.

Given the current government's marked inability to inspire either confidence or competence, it doesn't look like things will change in the foreseeable future. I only wonder what the comptroller's staffers are digging up now.

The writer is a member of The Jerusalem Post editorial staff.



Shame at Yitzhar

At a stormy cabinet meeting yesterday, Rafael Eitan turned to the prime minister in a rage, and said: "When I saw Jewish soldiers destroying the homes of Jews, I nearly wept."

Together with Natan Sharansky and Ariel Sharon, Eitan was expressing the deep anger of many Israelis who turned on their TVs Tuesday night to see bulldozers tearing down homes built on a Samaria hilltop and the violent evacuation of crying women and children.

The extraordinary aspect of the brutal demolition, where little regard was shown for the safety of the people living in the homes, was that they were actually built under the previous, Labor government.

Despite the Rabin-Peres contempt for settlers, Jewish homes were not demolished then, out of fear of the ensuing outcry from Jews of all political stripes.

This week, however, a so-called right-wing government sent in police and army, 200-strong, to smash three houses to pieces. One was made of stone, two of wood; they were built on land belonging to the settlement of Yitzhar.

Settlers asked angrily: "And what about the 1,700 houses built illegally by Palestinians in Judea and Samaria, in areas still under Israeli control? Anyone driving in the area, as we did recently, will see widespread illegal Arab building going on everywhere, especially close to the bypass roads. We didn't notice a single policeman or soldier anywhere, nearby."

Said Sharon at yesterday's cabinet meeting: "Even under Ottoman rule the authorities never dared destroy a Jewish house once it had a roof over it."

The Yitzhar settlers were incensed by injuries to five toddlers, as Israeli troops and police acted with unnecessary force. Several adults also received first aid at a nearby police station.

TV crews recorded the amount of brute force used during the demolition. Adults were thrown to the ground, banging their heads. Blood streamed down their faces. The settlers' screams were heard quite clearly by bystanders.

Shaken by the outcry from some government ministers, the government at first blamed the police for

URI DAN EISENBERG

the brutality of the operation. When this was denied, attention focused on OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Uzi Dayan, the man in charge of the operation, who in the past has shown distaste for settlers.

But it soon became clear that Dayan was acting under the orders of Defense Minister Mordechai. Then the truth emerged: Binyamin Netanyahu gave his

approval for the onslaught on the settlers. The operation was carried out coldly, with deliberate intent. It was, say political insiders, a move by Netanyahu to prove to the Clinton administration that he is the only one who can destroy the spirit, and homes, of the settlers - the same people who voted for him.

Netanyahu and Mordechai are competing over who can show the most 'reasonable and conciliatory' face to Clinton

This made nonsense of the purpose of building Jewish homes on Har Homa in the first place: to close the circle around Jerusalem and prevent the Palestinians creating a solid link between Bethlehem and Jerusalem, giving them a firm foothold in the Jewish capital.

If Arafat gave the green light for terrorists to attack Jewish civilian targets again, Netanyahu showed the red light to settlers, telling them that their cause is doomed. The harsh truth is that since the elections, exactly 10 housing units have been built in the settlements. A week ago the PLO chief again warned about "settler terrorism," i.e. building houses. More gestures were required to please the Americans.

Some government ministers are now talking about competition between Netanyahu and Mordechai over who can show the most "reasonable, conciliatory" face to gain White House approval. Mordechai recently increased his chances by announcing that restrictions on Palestinians seeking work in Israel would be lifted completely.

Netanyahu countered by approving the smashing of the settlers of Yitzhar by a crack unit of elite soldiers. They did their work as ordered, ruthlessly and efficiently. Then they left the smashed furniture and ruined belongings, including children's books, for Nigerian workers employed by the civil administration to deal with.

After the verbal barrage he received from ministers yesterday, Netanyahu said "a regrettable incident had occurred." But he was really telling the White House: "You see? I can do things Labor didn't even dream of doing."

You can fool some of the people some of the time, but not all of the people all of the time.

The settlers trusted Netanyahu sufficiently to give him their total support prior to the election. Now, even the most naive must share the sentiments of the settler who declared, "Today is a sad day for the Jewish people, a day for weeping."

The reason for the demolition emerged last Friday night at a secret meeting in which some ministers came up with proposals on how to stem the tide of American and Palestinian criticism of Jewish construction on Har Homa. Dan Meridor suggested that "We will share Har Homa; half the homes there will be for Arab families."

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The writers are authors of The Mossad: Secrets of the Israeli Secret Service and other books on the Middle East.

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Another State Comptroller's Report

The 1,100-page report released yesterday by State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat - chock full of documented waste, fraud and mismanagement - should inspire both anger and admiration at the state of Israeli government and democracy. We cringe at the annual revelations of blatant irresponsibility, some of it life-threatening. We also should be thankful that at least some of our government's foibles are being brought to light, creating an opportunity to do better.

The state comptroller's reports tend to be measured in terms of the most extreme findings. A report is considered "harsh" when it contains more than the usual recommendations for criminal investigation. Ben-Porat herself chose to focus on her findings of cronyism in the appointments process, perhaps because the Bar-On Affair has placed this issue on the front burner.

The sections on improper politicization of government appointments and contracts do ring loudly in the wake of recent events. Ben-Porat called the findings in this arena the "most serious" since she has issued such reports.

In a move directly reminiscent of the Bar-On Affair, Prime Minister's Office Director-General Avigdor Lieberman booted the Prime Minister's Office legal adviser, and tried to replace him with a Likud activist. No one is really expecting such appointments to be devoid of politics, and this government is hardly the first to try to fill supposedly apolitical positions with "friendly" people. But the public has a right to expect that the rule of law will be protected by people with some degree of professionalism and independence.

The seriousness of the report, however, should not be judged solely by its potential for political consequences, or by findings of possible criminal wrongdoing. Garden-variety bureaucratic negligence can have devastating consequences, and must be taken seriously even if it does not generate banner headlines.

The report found, for example, that nearly 40,000 drivers had been convicted of 30 or more traffic offenses, and that these recidivist offenders were twice as likely as occasional offenders to cause road accidents. Among the serious recidivists, a full 53% had been convicted for causing an accident, some up to three times. Only a small portion of these repeat offenders have had their licenses permanently revoked, and some of those succeeded in getting their licenses reissued.

These facts, coupled with the fact that the police and the Licensing Bureau have still not complied with a March 1996 cabinet order to compile a comprehensive list of repeat offenders

and guidelines on how to deal with them, make a mockery of the supposedly aggressive current police campaign against road accidents. If the authorities continue to ignore demands for a serious and systematic approach toward repeat offenders, the next step will be lawsuits by grieving families against the state for giving dangerous drivers a license to kill.

Another finding, concerning widespread violation of guidelines for school trip security, is tragically prescient. It is hard to think of a greater responsibility entrusted to public officials than the safety of the nation's schoolchildren. Yet the report found that, of the 20 schools reviewed, only one underwent the required pre-trip inspection to ensure compliance with security guidelines.

One of those guidelines is that school trips are not allowed to enter the Naharayim area, because it is under Jordanian sovereignty and armed Israeli chaperones cannot enter. No one would have predicted the massacre of seven young girls at Naharayim by a Jordanian soldier, but this is one guideline which, if adhered to, could have prevented a terrible tragedy.

Again, in the section on the IDF, the comptroller's focus on seemingly prosaic areas such as the storage of tanks and coordination between helicopters and ground forces may not be exciting, but clearly - in light of recent events - deserves serious attention. There may be no direct relationship between the February 4 helicopter collision that took 73 lives and the faults found in the program to upgrade CH-53 transport helicopters, but the accident illustrates what is at stake in this area.

The finding that the Golani brigade is torn between training for fighting a conventional war and having to fight a guerrilla war in south Lebanon and maintain security in Judea and Samaria has important implications for the IDF as a whole. Golani may be the most stressed by conflicting missions, but the IDF in general needs to pay more attention to the difficult task of training for tasks that are not as black-and-white as the conventional battlefield.

In general, the lesson of this year's comptroller's report is that the "micro" matters. Petty corruption and irresponsibility add up, and can lead to unpredictable and tragic consequences. There is much to be proud of in our democracy, including the government's ability to critically analyze itself. But for the criticism to be more than an impressive exercise, the government bureaucracy and its leaders must display a level of responsiveness that matches the seriousness of the report's findings.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LITTLE SUBSTANCE

Sir, - Although the April 24 UN General Assembly "emergency session" on Israel's building plans in Jerusalem was scheduled for some time, it was instructive to note it was held just two days after 93 innocents, including many women and children, were slaughtered by Islamic extremists in an Algerian village.

The General Assembly debate was prompted by calls by the Arab bloc. When last, one wonders, did the august world body meet in "emergency session" to discuss the tragic situation in Algeria? Or the Moslem slave trade in the Sudan?

OPINION POLLS

Sir, - In a somewhat confusing article on your front page of April 3, you present findings of a poll which indicate that 51.3 percent of those surveyed would support a Palestinian state "if this would remove the main obstacle to real peace." You also record that 48 percent of those surveyed support the Oslo process; 59 percent said that the chances of war are high; 74 percent fear terrorist attacks. From among these various findings, your headline writer chose: "Majority supports Palestinian

state, fears war." You could just as easily have written: "Majority opposes Oslo process." It is well known that the way questions are framed can determine the answers given. Asking about support for a Palestinian state if it would lead to real peace is asking a leading question. Despite the weighted question, only 51.3 percent answered yes - hardly a majority worthy of a front-page headline.

SHARON GLASER
Kfar Haroeh, Jerusalem.

POOR TASTE

Though dubbed by some as Israel's Jackie Kennedy, for the sake of complete accuracy the comparison should have been made with Jane Fonda, who, unlike our beloved Jackie, gave aid and comfort to the enemies of her country. So, Mrs. Rabin, with friends like you, Israel doesn't need Arafat or Peter Jennings.

PATRICK GOODENOUGH
Jerusalem.

JEWISH MAJORITY

Sir, - There is an unwritten law which I call the Law of National Decency. It states, basically, that you should refrain from criticizing your own country and its leaders when you are in a foreign land. I always observe this caveat, as I truly believe all decent Americans do. Mrs. Leah Rabin, spewing forth her venom against her own country's leaders while in the US, showed extremely poor taste.

ADAM KELLER
Holon, Northridge, California.

OUTRAGED

Sir, - I am outraged. If what Susan Hattie Rolef writes is true ("Travel sickness," April 16), then we have yet another example of the blatant disregard with which the Israeli public is treated by its government and officials. I, for one, do not recall seeing Sara Netanyahu's name appear on any ballot sheets at the last election. Has she, in secret, been elevated to some great public post for which she is entitled to make demands on the public purse?

LINDA EINBERG
Karmiel.

WILSHIRE BOULEVARD TEMPLE

Sir, - I read with interest Harvey J. Fields' article of April 23, "Fear of fanatics." Fields is the senior rabbi of Wilshire Boulevard Temple of Los Angeles.

This past winter, I toured Los Angeles. Among the sites visited was the Wilshire Boulevard Temple museum, which has a room devoted to *kenobot*. From afar we noticed that one of the *kenobot* on display was embellished by a cross under a Jewish star. As we came closer, we saw that not only was it a mixed marriage, but that two homosexuals dressed in white were dancing on top of the art display. The accompanying information sheet proudly described this mixed marriage religiously but otherwise homosexual.

If this is the Judaism practiced by Rabbi Fields' followers, I am proud to be considered a "fanatic." Yes, I am fanatical about the survival of the Jewish people and its unity. There must be a conversion which all Jews can accept as valid. AARON RAKEFFET-ROTHKOFF, Rabbi Jerusalem.

PICTURE POSTSCRIPT



Abundance of beauty: Gila Mamo beams after being crowned Miss Fat Israel on Saturday in Beersheba. Mamo, a 29-year-old redhead from Beersheba, weighs 94 kg. At right is 54-kg Miss (Thin) Israel, Miri Greenberg. Flanking Mamo is Avi Malra of Matim Li fashion chain, one of the sponsors of the pageant, and impressario Esterika Nagid, who put on the show. At far left is Miss Congeniality, Ruti Peretz.

POSTSCRIPT

HOW MANY Israelis does it take to watch a movie? Sixty, if one of them is Prime Minister Netanyahu. The PM's office bought 60 tickets to a Tel Aviv theater recently so Netanyahu and wife Sara could see *Bridgely Fire*

Waves in safety. The couple was surrounded by a battery of Shin Bet bodyguards, dressed in jeans to resemble regular moviegoers. Undercover security people also took over the running of the theater, putting up screens and leading regular customers to their seats. The tickets reportedly cost taxpayers NIS 1,380. As one would expect, the Prime Minister's Office refused to confirm or deny the *Yediot* reporter's report.

The writer is a member of The Jerusalem Post editorial staff.

Fighting spirit

A Jerusalem bus bombing paralyzed Swiss resident Peter Malina. But that didn't dampen his desire to move to Israel, Uriel Heilman writes



Learning to function again: Yonah Peter Malina operates a computer with visitor Prof. Hanoch Gutfreund, president of the Hebrew University.

After two grueling years, Yonah Peter Malina's determination has brought him home.

Malina — who grew up in Switzerland, not knowing he was Jewish — visited Israel for the first time 10 years ago and immediately fell in love with the country. But just one year after moving here, his life was suddenly and irrevocably transformed on an August morning in 1995, when a terrorist bomb ripped through the Jerusalem bus he was riding, leaving him paralyzed from the neck down. It has been nearly two years since the incident, and months since Malina reluctantly left Israel to receive medical treatment at a special facility for paraplegics near Lucerne, Switzerland. Since then his one great wish has been to come back and live in Israel.

Yesterday, that wish was finally fulfilled when he arrived on a special flight from Switzerland and was transferred to the Neurological Department at Tel Hashomer Hospital.

Malina, now 30, was born in Bratislava, Czechoslovakia, where his parents had fled on the eve of the Holocaust to escape Nazi persecution. Having hidden their Jewish roots for so long, first from the Nazis and later from the Communists, Malina was unaware of his Jewish origins until about 10 years ago, when his grandmother urged him to visit Israel.

At age 20, he volunteered on a kibbutz and attended Hebrew ulpan. From then on, Malina came back as often as possible, eager to become an Israeli and discover his Jewish heritage. But it was not until 1994 that Malina confirmed his Jewish identity. After months of searching led him to the municipal

archive of Bratislava, he located the birth certificates of his mother and her parents, which contained Hebrew writing. He stopped calling himself Peter and adopted the name Yonah. He insisted on coming here to study despite his parents' entreaties to first complete his degree in international law at the University of Zurich.

After immigrating in 1994, he began studying Judaism at Machon Meir and Hebrew at Ulpan Etzion. Teachers and friends describe Malina, who is fluent in six languages, as an excellent and enthusiastic student. He won a prestigious award for his studies at Ulpan Etzion in early 1995 and, according to a letter he wrote that year, felt a certain thrill every time he was addressed in Hebrew.

In his letter of application to Machon Meir, Malina wrote: "After a few visits to Israel I decided to go back to my origins and started to look for a place where I could study religion and the history of Judaism. I need to first study the basics." But on the morning of April 21, 1995, his life was tragically altered.

That day, while Malina was on a bus on the way to the Mt. Scopus

university campus, a suicide bomber aboard a passing bus blew himself up, wounding scores of passengers in an explosion that tore both vehicles apart.

Rescuers found Malina unconscious and not breathing. After initial CPR was administered, Malina was rushed to Hadassah Medical Center. Ironically, Malina had switched bus routes several days

It has been Malina's courage and stubborn desire to return to Israel that has given him the will to live.

earlier, after concerned friends warned him that the bus which he used to take was the target of occasional stone-throwing as it wound its way through the streets of east-Jerusalem.

At the hospital, doctors found

that a piece of metal had lodged between Malina's third and fourth vertebrae, paralyzing him from the neck down and prohibiting him from breathing without the aid of a respirator. The initial prognosis was that if he survived, which doctors deemed unlikely, he would suffer serious brain damage.

Malina lay in a coma at the hospital for weeks before he began to regain consciousness and eventually communicate by blinking his eyes. Doctors were astonished to find that he suffered no brain damage despite the serious injury that left most of his body inert. And even though many of his internal organs had been damaged by the blast, they had slowly begun to heal.

During his initial period of recovery at Hadassah, Malina's room was the site of frequent activity. Friends and teachers from Machon Meir, Hebrew University and Ulpan Etzion came to visit him every day, talking and reading to him. However, after several months, Malina's parents, who came to Israel immediately after their son's injury, convinced him to return to Switzerland to a special paraplegic center near Lucerne. Malina's recovery has been

painstakingly slow. His mother, Eva, recalls the doctors in Switzerland saying: "We should not say to him that everything will be okay because, in fact, nothing is." Today, Malina is still dependent upon a respirator to breathe and speaking remains a great effort. Using his lips, a special breathing device, and diminutive head movements, he is learning to operate a computer that he hopes will eventually enable him to gain some degree of independence, though the doctors expect he will always require 24-hour care.

His mother maintains that there must be significance to the fact that her son was saved. "Everything from the neck down was cut off, and he could not breathe; only his heart was working. There has to be a reason why he was saved, because otherwise it is completely absurd."

It has been Malina's courage and stubborn desire to return to Israel that has given him the will to live and the stamina to progress along his difficult path, according to Rabbi Zvi Kleinman, head of the English-speakers' program at Machon Meir. He maintains that now, as before the tragic attack, no power in the world could keep Malina away from Israel.

Malina has told his parents and friends that despite all that has happened, he does not regret immigrating here. Not a day passed in Switzerland in which Malina did not reiterate his wish to return to Israel.

This was made possible through the efforts of a special committee comprised of members of Ulpan Etzion, the Jewish Agency, Hadassah Hospital, Machon Meir and the Hebrew University, with financial support from the National Insurance Institute.

Friends and family hope that Malina's arrival in Israel will accelerate his rehabilitation process. In a television interview a few weeks ago, Malina said, "I closed my life here [in Switzerland] a long time ago."

Kleinman says the committee's next task is to provide Malina with the intellectual stimulation and emotional help he seeks in Israel. The committee is looking for people to spend time with Malina, read to him, and eventually help him complete his degree. He has even expressed a desire to learn Arabic.

Shortly before arriving in Israel, Malina said, "I want to find some sort of peace and feel at home again."



Not Page One

Katz 'n' jammin' kidz

By Sam Orbaum

Katz & Cohen. Not a law firm, a two-man Knesset faction, or a plumbing company. Not even Israeli, in fact.

Sharon Katz and Marilyn Cohen are demolition experts — demolition of racial arrogance in South Africa. Sharon is the marquee star of the duo, a Durban resident who helped counter apartheid through music. Marilyn, a transplanted South African originally from Philadelphia, is her manager and unabashed admirer.

"She's the Pied Piper of Peace," Marilyn enthused during an interview. They were here to investigate bringing their good vibes to Israel, and to visit family — Sharon's sister is in Mevasseret Zion, her brother in Ma'agan Michael, and her parents live in Ra'anana.

"I say we had incredibly powerful influence," Sharon said reflectively, without a hint of hype. "During the time all the changes were taking place, in 1992, I brought together 500 kids of all different backgrounds and races — black, white, Indian, and the designation 'colored.' Jewish kids as well. With a band that I had put together, I taught them to sing and dance in each other's traditions and cultures, and helped break down this whole apartheid thing. We put on a performance that was nationally televised."

"I wanted to show we can have democracy in South Africa. That was the theme, that we can all live together. Response was so great that we decided to take it by train around South Africa." That idea launched her to national renown. "Sharon Katz & the Peace Train" performed a whistle-stop tour of the country, setting up concerts at eight or 10 train stations along the way.

"It was really amazing. 150 people living on the train together, people from all across the color line."

"From a spiritual point of view, we made our mark." The Katz Kidz performed for Nelson Mandela throughout the election period and many times after he was elected.

"When I met him the first time, he told me that what we are doing embodied the non-racial democracy he was intending to establish in South Africa. Mandela loved the Peace Train."

"Sharon was imbued with the values — loving your neighbor and fighting oppression — because she was in the Habonim youth movement in Port Elizabeth," Marilyn said. "She started sneaking out to the black townships when she was 15, illegally. She taught herself to play African-style guitar, and taught her the youngsters singing in each other's tongues — in Hebrew. The kids love 'Hinei Ma Tov.' And now I'm teaching them 'Shir Leshalom.'" Her troupe is now 35-strong, youths aged 10 to 20, with a 10-piece Afro-rock-jazz band.

"We'd love to bring the Peace Train here," Sharon said wistfully. "Israel is very close to my heart and we have a common history with the black people. There's a lot of affinity between us."

"Three years ago I came with one of my black singing partners and we did quite an extensive tour in Israel. Israelis are mad about this kind of music. They'd love the Peace Train."

Sharon, 40, and Marilyn, 46, won the support of the Israeli ambassador and the Foreign and Tourism Ministries to bring their tour here in 1995, but the plans collapsed because of lack of funding. They're

not giving up. "We're working on a Cape-to-Cairo Peace Train Tour, the length of Africa. If we can get to Cairo, we should be able to get to Israel."

We can still get to hear them, even if no one finds a way to stage their performance. "In addition to our own album, *Crystal Journey*, which we released last year, we were invited to submit a song to a compilation album released worldwide just yesterday [April 30]. It's called *Carnival '97*, and we're on it with Sting, Pavarotti, Madonna and Elton John." Big stuff — but Sharon and Marilyn are more excited about the little successes.

"All the kids come from very difficult backgrounds, they're all victims of poverty and many don't have their own families," Sharon said. "But they've been transformed by this." Marilyn recalled her friend's forays into isolated, dirt-poor rural communities. "Sharon was the first white person many of these kids had seen. I'm sure they thought she was a ghost at first," Sharon picked 120 of them from one wretched place to join her initial 500-voice concert.

Sharon and Marilyn are demolition experts — demolition of apartheid.

"The kids didn't know what a stage was. They'd never been anywhere with electricity. At the concert hall, when the stage lights were turned on, their mouths just hung open. Sharon was trying to get them to sing, and we sort of had to push their chins up."

"Then the other kids came, and they found themselves standing next to a white kid on one side, an Indian kid on another. Kids being kids, they were curious, not hostile. They took to each other, showing each other the dance steps, hugging each other, giggling and holding hands. Magic," Marilyn said she gets goosebumps when she thinks of one incident.

"In '92, we were with a group of people in this one township where there'd been a considerable amount of violence. Suddenly a group of about 10 or 15 youths burst in. One of them had what later turned out to be a toy gun. Sharon and I were the only whites around. He gave us a really angry look and he's got this AK-47 in one hand and a rock in another, and I'm holding my breath figuring, this is it."

"But because Sharon's not only an incredible musician but a music therapist, she looks him in the eye and begins to play her guitar to him. He stops in his tracks and listens, and then she motions to him with her guitar that he should turn his AK-47 around and strum it. And the kid does it."

"Then she goes over to him, takes her guitar off her neck and puts it around his, and starts to teach him to play. His hostile look turns into a car-to-ear grin, and within minutes there's a line of kids waiting for their turn to play music. These boys were rough — but she converted gang members into band members. It was an amazing moment."

"It's the kind of magic I've seen her do across the country."

THERE AND THEN

From confrontation to reconciliation?

By SPRAYA SHAPIRO

Does the Palestinian nationalist movement show a tendency to proceed *From Confrontation to Reconciliation*? Ten contributors to a 424-page volume recently published by the Ministry of the Defense try to answer that question in historical terms. Hebrew University professor Moshe Maoz and Haifa University professor B.Z. Kedar edited the book, dedicated to the memory of Brigadier-General Yosef Lunz, former governor of Tulkarm and Ramallah, whose masterly study of the Arab nationalist movement in Palestine before World War I is included.

As soon as the early Zionists realized the seriousness of Arab opposition, they endeavored to find Arab leaders with whom to discuss a *modus vivendi*. Victor Jacobson, who represented the Zionist Organization in Constantinople in 1911, and Asher Sapiro, a Palestinian resident, met members of a cultural Arab association. According to Sapiro, these Arabs promised to consider a role for Zionists in Palestine if and when Arabs were afforded semi-independence in certain parts of the Ottoman Empire.

Two years later, Nahum Sokolov, the prominent Zionist leader, visited Damascus and Beirut to meet Arab nationalists. It was agreed to call a joint conference to discuss the issue. However, the Zionists asked to delay it, fearing

repercussions on the Jewish settlers in Palestine by the Turkish authorities.

The war radically changed everything. The British took Chaim Weizmann, head of the Zionist Organization, to Palestine, in March, 1918. Palestine had been earmarked as a National Home for the Jews by the Balfour Declaration, five months earlier. Stopping over in Cairo, Weizmann was introduced to the High Commissioner, Sir Reginald Wingate, who gave the Zionist leader a bit of advice based on his experience in Sudan: Deal with the "real leaders," especially the religious ones, and ignore the small fry.

It was arranged for Weizmann to meet three members of the so-called Syrian Party, among them the editor of the Egyptian newspaper *Mukattam*, who promised to write to his colleagues in Palestine. If he did, no trace of the letter has been left.

The governor of Jerusalem, Sir Ronald Storrs, held a reception for Weizmann and his colleagues on the "Zionist Commission," which was attended by many prominent Arabs. Weizmann was deliberately conciliatory. He assured Storrs that Zionists had absolutely no intention of expelling Arab inhabitants from Palestine, and he promised assistance in economic matters. He even denied that the Zionists intended to establish a Jewish administration in the country. However, the Arab reaction was

downright hostile. Weizmann was appalled.

"The Arab is a very subtle debater and conversationalist," Weizmann later wrote in his memoirs. "In particular, the Arab has an immense talent for expressing views diametrically opposed to yours, with such exquisite and roundabout politeness that you believe him to be in complete agreement with you."

But Weizmann got the message he heard at the Storrs's residence very clearly. He did not hide his frustration and despair at the next meeting of the Zionist Council.

However, a glimmer of hope seemed to come from Faisal Hussein, Sherif Hussein's son, whom the British hoped to install in Damascus. Faisal believed that cooperation with the Zionist movement was useful for his plans. As Britain's ally during the war, he accepted British assurances that the Balfour declaration would not impair Arab political and economic rights in Palestine. Indeed, he published, in his *Mecca Paper*, a call to the Arabs of Palestine to welcome Jewish immigrants from Europe.

On June 8th, 1918, Weizmann met Faisal in the latter's camp, north of Akaba. The meeting was arranged by the British. No agreement was announced, but the atmosphere at the meeting was so pleasant that Weizmann squarely declared to members of the founding assembly of Palestine Jews that a *modus vivendi* was in the making. "We want to live with the

Arabs on the best of terms." He stressed, however, that all hopes went up in smoke after the French assumed their preponderance in Syria.

Aharon Aharonson (of Nili fame), who grew up in Zichron Ya'akov, assured Weizmann that the average Arab inhabitant of Palestine cared little about political issues. But, he warned him to pay attention to the *effendis*, the rich landlords and influential mayors in large towns. Their interests, Aharonson maintained, were "personal," and by intensifying anti-Jewish propaganda, they hoped to enhance the price of land they wanted to sell to Jews. Naively, Weizmann suggested not buying land from private owners.

The prominent *effendis* belonged to several families who achieved wealth and influence through their own efforts, vying with each other, but maintaining a strict social distance from the common people. The Husseinis, the Nashashibis, the El-Halidis, the Dajanis, and some others, were powerful enough to ignore the Ottomans, and later, the British authorities. They did incite unrest, which we described as "disturbances," and they as "revolt," during which the Arabs fought the British by killing Jews.

But essentially they were provincials, somehow snubbed by the main powers in the Arab world and practically prevented from fighting during Israel's War of Independence.

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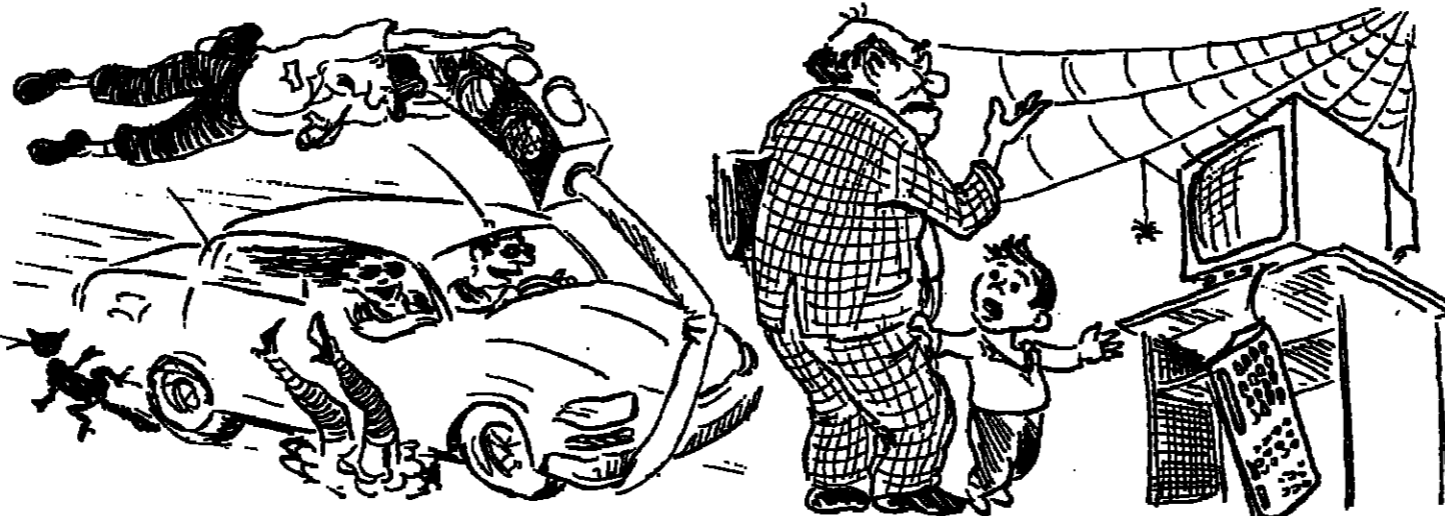
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INTERNAL SECURITY MINISTRY

Thousands of habitual traffic offenders remain on the roads

By RAINE MARCUS

Nearly 40,000 drivers have been convicted of 30 or more traffic offenses, and some have been convicted as many as 148 times, the comptroller found, questioning how the responsible bodies could allow drivers with such poor records to remain on the road.

Only six percent of the offenses committed by these drivers were minor ones, like illegal parking.

The comptroller found that these seriously recidivist drivers are twice as likely to cause serious road accidents. Of all those convicted of traffic offenses, only 25% had been convicted for causing an accident, while among the serious recidivists, 53% had been convicted for causing an accident, some up to three times.

Of those drivers whose convictions spanned 10 years or more, 1,442 had their licenses suspended for various periods of time, and 136 had them permanently revoked. Of those whose licenses had been revoked, at least half continued to drive - 67 committed additional offenses, some of them 10 or more. Several had had

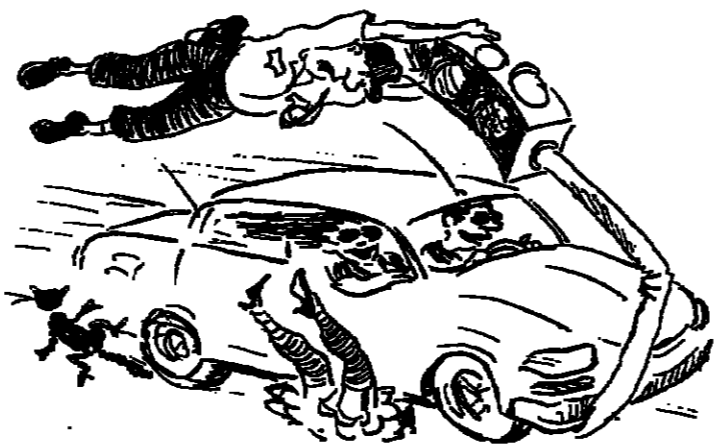
licenses reissued to them despite their being banned from the road for life; 22 people had had their licenses "permanently revoked" more than once.

In March 1996, the cabinet ordered the police, the Licensing Bureau, and the courts to compile a comprehensive list of those drivers who had recurring convictions, so as to develop clear guidelines for dealing with such offenders. This project was to have taken three months.

But by September 1996, the list had still not been compiled and no guidelines had been formulated.

Unlike other criminal records, traffic offenders are listed in the police databases only by their identity numbers and driver's license numbers, if available - not by name. In many cases identity numbers were recorded incorrectly, leading to offenses being attributed to the wrong person, and making it difficult to trace genuine offenders.

Although the Transport Ministry provides police with monthly updates on drivers' and vehicles' details, there were many cases in which two or more drivers are listed



under the same identity number.

Over the past few years, the Transport Ministry has been gradually validating its records against those in the population registry, but until the process is completed, police will continue to receive inaccurate information.

This delay becomes more significant as more automated forms of enforcement, such as automatic cameras, are used to catch offenders.

If the license plate photographed is not properly matched with the car's owner in the database, such methods of enforcement are frustrated.

The police division responsible for issuing tickets, which give drivers the chance to pay fines or challenge them in court, sends out an average million such notices yearly. Records of such notices are recorded by typists, and mistakes are made.

Statistics gathered from electronic equipment used to catch offenders are also recorded by typists; here again, mistakes are made, affecting the accuracy of all data stored and subsequently transferred to the courts and the Transport Ministry.

A check in the Tel Aviv district revealed that it took an average of 13 to 19 months from the date of a road accident to file charges against offenders, a period the comptroller said is far too long.

In response, the Internal Security Ministry wrote that all statistics were transferred in February 1997 to the Justice Ministry's database department. In July 1996, the Traffic Police handed over a list of recidivist drivers to the Transport Ministry.

The Prime Minister's Office, meanwhile, has instructed the ministry to arrange for the immediate completion of the list of recidivists, and for a team from the Transport Ministry and the courts to formulate guidelines for dealing with them, to include provisions for medical examinations for offenders, retaining, and revocation of licenses.

EDUCATION MINISTRY

Schools violate guidelines on trip safety, costs

By NIVYAN DEAN COHEN

There is widespread violation of the guidelines on school trip safety, the comptroller found.

According to the report, a check in the Tel Aviv district revealed that it took an average of 13 to 19 months from the date of a road accident to file charges against offenders, a period the comptroller said is far too long.

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cult terrain was responsible for the falls.

A committee established to find ways to assure the routes taken on trips are safe made recommendations in April 1995, but these had not yet been implemented.

The ministry forbids including attractions, such as amusement and water parks, on school trips, but several of the schools included them anyway. Principals explained that doing so increased the pupils' motivation to go on the trips.

Despite this, 21% of pupils in the high schools surveyed did not go on the trip, even though

Report was completed months before Nabaraviv killings

of weapons had not reached them recently or were unfamiliar with their operation.

In many cases, the accompanying adults were not carrying all the information required by the ministry, including emergency telephone numbers, maps of the area to be visited, and accurate lists of the participating pupils.

Of 20 high schools whose principals had been interviewed, 14 had not immediately prepared the proper guidelines.

Once an application was received, the husbands of these women were granted temporary resident status and, in some cases, work permits, to be in effect until the application was dealt with.

But most of the requests were not dealt with. The handful that were approved included those in which the High Court of Justice intervened or where there were special circumstances.

The guidelines for examining women's requests were finally prepared in June 1996, and those who had applied were asked to submit supporting documentation. By November 1996, not all those who had applied had been contacted, and the process of approving these applications had yet to begin.

INTERIOR MINISTRY

Procedures vague for revoking resident status

By DAN IZENBERG

In December 1995, a meeting was held in the attorney-general's office to decide whether to regard Judea, Samaria and Gaza as "outside of Israel" for the purpose of determining whether Arabs of east Jerusalem who were permanent residents lost this status if they moved to the territories for more than seven years.

Following the meeting, the attorney-general's office told the Interior Ministry's population registry office in east Jerusalem that the territories were, in fact, outside Israel, and that any Palestinian permanent resident who had left Jerusalem and lived in the territories for seven years, was to be stripped of his permanent resident status and the benefits that go with it.

Until the beginning of 1996, the population registry office was haphazard in keeping records of east Jerusalemites whose permanent residency status was lost in this

manner. In 1993, 40 such people were noted, in 1994, 39 and in 1995, 90.

In the first half of 1996, however, the figure jumped to 400. All of them received a notice, signed by the head of the office that their permanent residency visa had expired because the "center of their lives" had moved outside of Israel.

(Earlier this week, the Interior Ministry put the total number of such people for 1996 at 1,047).

The comptroller found that the Interior Ministry did not formulate specific criteria for determining when to terminate someone's permanent resident status. Furthermore, the ministry did not have a reliable way to check whether a resident was actually living in east Jerusalem or had settled outside of Israel - whether in the territories or abroad.

Although the National Insurance Institute often provided information on the whereabouts of permanent residents, the popula-

tion registry office did not always act upon it by notifying the person or confiscating his identity card.

For decades, under the Law of Entry, a man who was a permanent resident and whose "center of life" was in Israel could request permanent residency for his foreign-born wife and minor children, under the provision made for family reunification. In April 1994, the regulations were changed to also allow wives who are permanent residents and whose "center of life" is in Israel to request permanent residency for their husbands.

The number of requests for family reunification increased markedly after that decision, from 1,060 in 1992 and 1,673 in 1993 to 3,480 in 1994 and 2,700 in 1995.

The comptroller noted that special criteria are needed to determine whether Israel is the "center of life" of an Arab woman making the request, given the tradition in the

Arab sector for the wife to move to her husband's town or village. But even though the Interior Ministry understood this, they did not immediately prepare the proper guidelines.

Once an application was received, the husbands of these women were granted temporary resident status and, in some cases, work permits, to be in effect until the application was dealt with.

But most of the requests were not dealt with. The handful that were approved included those in which the High Court of Justice intervened or where there were special circumstances.

The guidelines for examining women's requests were finally prepared in June 1996, and those who had applied were asked to submit supporting documentation. By November 1996, not all those who had applied had been contacted, and the process of approving these applications had yet to begin.

INTERIOR MINISTRY

Poor handling of blank documents leads to identity card forgeries

By DAN IZENBERG

The large waves of immigration and the influx of foreign workers led the comptroller to investigate the procedures for issuing identity cards, the security arrangements for preventing their forgery, and the granting of citizenship to immigrants from the former Soviet Union.

The forging of identity cards is widespread and in most cases, the illegal documents are prepared on forms stolen from population registry offices. Officials do not store blank identity cards and related documents in safes and do not destroy used cards.

In the Beersheba office, the comptroller found that anyone in the office may handle blank documents and equipment that arrives. The material is not properly stored; bundles of blank identity cards were left unlocked in a room where the public is received.

Security around the offices was found to be inadequate. Furthermore, the Interior Ministry security officer does not follow up in cases where problems have been discovered or break-ins have taken place.

There is no requirement for individuals to report lost or stolen identity cards and there is an ongoing dispute between the police, the ministry, and other security bodies as to the circumstances under which a declaration explaining the loss of the card should be mandatory.

The comptroller recommended that people who claim to have lost their card more than once be required to declare in writing how the card was lost.

It emerged that there is no uniform procedure for issuing new identity cards, and each office operates according to its own arrangements.

In some offices, new identity cards are issued without applicants providing sufficient proof of eligibility.

Although the ministry established a steering committee to oversee production of a state-of-the-art computerized identity card, no timetable has been



set for its development and little progress has been made.

Since 1989, 770,000 new immigrants have settled here, including some 650,000 from the former Soviet Union. Immigrants' identity cards are issued on the basis of documents provided by the immigrant proving his or her right to citizenship under Israeli law.

As early as 1991, many forged documents were uncovered. Yet the population registry office does not receive advance information from Israeli authorities in the CIS, who process most of the immigration requests before the immigrants arrive here.

As a result, the registrars are often unaware that the applicants before them may have been previously rejected or may have never gone through proper procedures in the CIS and are using forged documents.

In response, the Interior Ministry said that all replacement identity cards are issued with the approval of security authorities.

The ministry also said it plans to provide Border Control with lists of those who received immigrant visas abroad, to prevent people from using forged documents to obtain citizenship.

POLITICAL APPOINTMENTS

'Good friends' still get the good jobs

By MICHAL YUDELMAN

Despite ongoing attempts to stop improper political appointments, not only are they continuing but those responsible keep coming up with all kinds of excuses to explain them, the comptroller said.

In June 1996, the Prime Minister's Office director-general-designate, Avigdor Lieberman, informed the office's legal adviser that he was being dismissed, effective immediately, explaining the dismissal with the intention to appoint some "who thinks more like us."

The man who replaced the legal adviser was a Likud activist and central committee member.

The comptroller rejected the Prime Minister's Office's explanation that

the legal adviser must "be trusted" by the one who appoints him, namely the prime minister. She stressed that a ministry's legal adviser is not responsible to the body or person that employs him, but to the rule of law. At the attorney-general's order, the new man was not appointed legal adviser but a "special adviser to the prime minister." He received a government car and was paid retroactively from July, but did not sign a contract. In November, the man quit.

In another case, a worker was employed by special contract as "media assistant in the Prime Minister's Office." He was assigned wage grade 38, for which an academic degree and three years' experience are required. The man had neither requirement. He did, however,

work for half a year in the Likud headquarters as spokesman.

The Housing Ministry, now run by Deputy Housing Minister Meir Porush, contracted with a personnel company "specializing in the haredi sector" even though the company failed to meet the requirements of the public tender.

Moreover, the ministry's demand for female workers exclusively from the haredi sector in the ministry's and director-general's offices, was in violation of the Equal Opportunity Law.

The contractors' registrar, who was fired by former housing minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer after he was cited for incompetence in a previous comptroller's report, was rehired by the prime minister in his

capacity as housing minister, and his replacement was dismissed.

The board of the Arim urban development company asked a post of "director-general for special projects" and appointed to it a man lacking any business or infrastructure experience. He was, however, former chairman of the Likud Young Guard.

Another unsuitable appointment at the Pratzot housing company was made at Porush's request. The comptroller suggests that the company received a housing project from the ministry in exchange for making the appointment.

In the Religious Affairs Ministry, a secretary was fired for fictitious "cutbacks" so that a Shas activist could replace her.

HOUSING MINISTRY

Rental apartments allocated inefficiently

By NINA GILBERT

Thousands of rental apartments stand empty or are occupied illegally while thousands of people in need of such housing wait for allocations, due to the Housing Ministry's inefficiency.

The comptroller faulted the ministry for not properly using its computer system to keep track of available rental units and to allocate them quickly.

In May 1996, for example, 1,146 people waiting for subsidized rental apartments in the central district were registered with Amidar, the government's largest housing com-

pany. That month, Amidar said it had only 115 apartments available for assignment.

But the comptroller identified some 4,700 apartments which the Housing Ministry and Amidar had not made use of. The apartments included those occupied by squatters and abandoned structures that could have been renovated.

Squatters included those who were relatives of deceased people who had been given subsidized rental housing. Amidar said that in August 1996 there were 312 such cases. In 257 cases, people had simply broken into empty apartments and settled

there. These people were allowed to become legal tenants under a legalization order issued by the ministry in May 1996.

The comptroller faulted this practice, however, saying that people who are not eligible for public rental housing are occupying apartments that should be offered to eligible people who have been waiting a long time for help.

The Housing Ministry does not enter data about those waiting for housing or the supply of housing into its computer system. A check in the ministry's central district offices found that the waiting lists for apart-

ments were written out by hand and separate lists were kept by each division - not a reliable formula for assuring efficient allocations.

And even these lists did not include the information needed to allocate the apartments according to ministry priorities. In many cases, residents of subsidized apartments in fact owned other apartments, which made them ineligible for subsidized housing.

The ministry said that since the audit was conducted, it had begun working on changing procedures for the allocation of apartments, including rebuilding the computer system.

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הכדא מן האשל



IDF

Reserve training lax; emergency warehouses poorly maintained

By AREH O'SULLIVAN

The comptroller focused on the reserves' battle readiness, and specifically looked into its deteriorating training schedules. She also reviewed the IDF's emergency warehouse units, finding faults in maintenance levels that could be costly in times of war.

In her scrutiny of two standing units, the comptroller said the Golani Brigade was so split between its dual tasks of training to fight a conventional war and maintaining security on a regular basis that it could do neither very well.

The army's relatively small artillery corps was found to suffer from serious deficiencies in its training programs at all levels.

The report also blasted the air force for the lighted and delayed program to upgrade its CH-53 transport helicopters at the undefined coordination between the helicopter corps and ground forces - a criticism that rings especially loud in the wake of the February 4 helicopter collision over She'ar Yashuv that killed 73 servicemen.

Reserve units had traditionally trained at least once a year until 1989, when the army started spreading training of due to the Intifada. In 1994 it decided to reduce its annual training schedule to one initiative, finding that the year-long less ammunition was used in reserve training and the NIS 7 million worth of ammunition "was being cut from the year's training."

When reservists do make it to training, instructors at the field training bases are less experienced weapons and tactics than they used to be, reducing reservists' motivation to train.

The IDF keeps divisions of tanks and armored personnel carriers (APCs) under specially designed plastic wrap to keep them from aging. An examination of 103 stored tanks showed that some were not battle-ready, mostly because they were not properly prepared for wrapping.

The army admitted that it is having a difficult time maintaining equipment and blamed it on the lack of adequately trained manpower.

A series of cutbacks by the army have led to a "cumulative negative impact" on the readiness of the warehouses. Some weapons are lacking and the practice of "borrowing" weapons and equipment from the emergency warehouse units could prove problematic during a real emergency.

The training needed to fight a conventional war is different than the training for running security duties, like fighting Hizbullah militiamen in south Lebanon or patrolling in the West Bank. As a result of this conflict, the Golani Brigade, the comptroller found, is not being adequately trained for either task. She also noted that Golani troop training on APCs was "less than minimal."

The header company in the brigade - comprised of soldiers who mix military service with yeshiva studies - is lowering the standard of the Golani troops and causing other companies to perform more tasks. It said that after serving 16 months of active service, the header soldiers returned to yeshiva studies. After a year they return to serve for another eight months, but at this point their fitness is not up to standard and they need further training before they can assume all their duties.

The report recommended the header arrangement be modified so that these soldiers' service is not split.

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Golani soldiers were also found not to be good marksmen. Mandatory weekly shooting practice for troops in Lebanon was often not carried out.

The IDF's support helicopter fleet was lacking in non-attack helicopters such as the Yasur, Black Hawk and Bell 212. But the comptroller's main complaint was that the IDF had yet to determine priorities for giving its infantry forces training flight hours with the Air Force. In general, she noted, the IDF had a too vague idea of how to use its helicopter force.

In a report on the CH-53 Sikorsky (Yasur) transport helicopters - completed long before the She'ar Yashuv collision - the comptroller found that the air force had improperly budgeted for its project to give the Yasur improved flight and navigation systems and a head-up display

integration, a project known as Yasur 2000.

As a result, the IAF upgraded some CH-53s at the expense of maintenance of other CH-53s.

The report also criticized other solutions, like accepting the Yasur 2000 helicopters before all upgrading was completed, with the unfinished tasks being labeled "open malfunctions."

It said the whole project was running 35 percent above planned costs and three years behind schedule.

In its response, the IDF blamed many of the faults noted by the comptroller on lack of funding, but said there had been improvement since the report was written.

The army has drawn up a plan to quickly raise the level of combat training for reserve soldiers in time of an alert.

This, the army said, led to great improvements in reserve training this year. It also said that armor and infantry reserve units were now training together to improve coordination.

Problems with storing weapons were due to a cut in funding, but the IDF has initiated a number of changes in maintenance.

Regarding the Golani Brigade, the army said it is reexamining company training. It said the training program in the artillery school was being rewritten and more instructors were assigned to artillery to boost training.

As for the Yasur 2000 project, the army said that the delays were made up in 1996. It also explained that the cannibalization of some helicopters was because the fleet of CH-53 helicopters had grown due to a drawdown of US navy choppers, but that the level of supplies had not been increased.

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Nearly half of all residents don't have good gas masks

The comptroller's report, a year earlier, had found that nearly half of all residents in the West Bank and Gaza Strip did not have good gas masks. The IDF has ordered research to improve the equipment but has been hampered by disagreements over the cost of the research and the need for more masks.

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ISRAEL LANDS ADMINISTRATION

Prime real estate focus of shady deals

By ANA GILBERT

Multimillion dollar development rights on prime real estate were awarded to developers without a tender by the Israel Lands Administration, the state comptroller found.

The comptroller investigated two development deals, one for a 41-dunam area in Jaffa and the other for 452 dunams in the northern Ashkelon. Both plots of land were under IL management.

The Jaffa deal concerned a plot of land on which construction began in 1972, when the government signed an agreement with a businessman whereby he would donate \$2.4 million toward construction of a government hospital, bearing the names of his sons. Between 1972-1976 the government, via the Health Administration, framed the frame of the nine-story building.

But construction was stopped in 1976, when the Wolfson Hospital in Holon was completed. At that point, the government had invested \$10m in the project, while the donor had given \$10,000. Over the years, the abandoned frame became an eyesore.

In 1993, the donor agreed to let the government use the land and the structure for another purpose, on condition that he would be given obligations toward the donor and what other options there were, including returning his money with compensation for inflation.

The ILA was also faulted for its procedures in allocating 452 dunams for a golf course and vacation village in northern Ashkelon.

At the end of 1991, the Tourism Ministry recommended that the ILA allocate the land to a specific company without a tender. In February 1992, the ILA Council received a recommendation to this effect. But in June of that year, the council rejected the request, deciding the land would be offered by a tender.

Sometime following that year's elections, the mayor of Ashkelon turned to the then-housing minister, Ben-Eliezer, who also served as the council chairman, and asked for the matter to be brought up again before the council. In November 1992, the ILA Council decided to allocate the land to the company without a tender.

The council agreed to give the company a 10-year lease. However, the comptroller found that the contract signed with the company offered a lease for 10 years with another four, 10-year options.

RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS MINISTRY

Fair funding proposals rejected

By HANI SHAPIRO

In an earlier report, which examined the ministry's allocations for Torah and Israeli cultural programs in 1993 and 1994, the comptroller described the situation by saying "it would seem that all values of morality and principles of truth and fairness had passed from the world."

In February 1995, Shimon Sheinert became religious affairs minister and appointed the Friedman Commission to establish new and fair criteria for such allocations.

However, the commission submitted its findings two days before last May's elections, which resulted in a change of government, and the new ministry officials made it clear that they considered the work of the commission irrelevant. Indeed, the new director-general made no attempt to hide the fact that such allocations are made to further political aims.

"The allocations are intended to further the policies of the ministry administration and the ministry policies are set in accordance with the political structure which is in charge [of the ministry]," the director-general said.

Despite the change in administration, the comptroller said, it was up to the new administration to maintain continuity in the ministry, not to ignore the recommendations of the commission.

Because of a dispute among the coalition partners, the prime minister ended up taking the portfolio and three MKs from the National Religious Party, Shas, and United Torah Judaism directed the work of the ministry and had a say in ministry allocations, a serious contravention of the principle of separation between the legislative and executive branches of government.

In short, attempts to improve the procedure for such allocations have not succeeded. Indeed, the comptroller quoted the Friedman Commission as saying that in the absence of "special allocations," brokering by the religious parties in negotiations with the finance minister, was probably superior.

That the situation has not changed since the comptroller concluded her survey in November is clear from the 1997 budget, in which the ministry upped its allocations for religious institutions operating nationwide from NIS 21.3 million in 1996 to NIS 41.5m this year. The bulk of these institutions are either affiliated to the religious parties or Habad. Among the institutions dropped were those affiliated with the Conservative and Reform movements.

Although there were several violations of voting laws in the 1996 elections, they did not affect the outcome of the election, the comptroller said. A new election may only be called if it is apparent that violations altered the results of the vote.

ELECTION RESULTS

Voting violations did not affect results

By URIEL HEILMAN

Although there were several violations of voting laws in the 1996 elections, they did not affect the outcome of the election, the comptroller said. A new election may only be called if it is apparent that violations altered the results of the vote.

Last year was the first time the prime minister was chosen by direct elections, and of 3,933,250 eligible voters, 3,121,270 voted for prime minister and 3,119,832 voted for the Knesset. The election law stipulates that voters cannot vote for one and not the other.

To ensure that this violation is not repeated in the next elections, the Central Election Commission suggested requiring voters to insert the envelopes containing their voting slips into two separate boxes.

According to the report, this violation was one of several that occurred at polling stations around the country due to officials' lack of familiarity with the rules and general disregard for election protocol. The CEC said that before the next elections it would publish a rule book and increase supervision at the polls.

There were 61 proven instances of people who voted twice in the 1996 elections, most of whom were prisoners or hospital patients who voted both in their institutions and at polling stations. Others broke the law by voting in the names of citizens who were abroad or recently deceased.

One MK filed a complaint with the police regarding violations in the prime ministerial vote after a court refused to take action, ruling that the violations did not influence the election results. By the time the comptroller's report was compiled in September 1996, the police investigation had not yet been concluded.

The cases of dual voting led the CEC to recommend that law be changed to enable officials to better identify voters. The commission also recommended that national identity cards be technologically updated to allow for more definitive identification.

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All three ministries fail to check whether the institutions applying to them had applied to other ministries as well. As a result, many requests were found to be duplicated.

JUSTICE MINISTRY

By ITSNEVA TSUR

An examination of the public committee's approves allocations from bequests to the state, and the committee's relations with the ministries, raised several cases of suspected conflicts of interest and sloppy controls, the comptroller reported.

The committee, which operates under the aegis of the Justice Ministry, was set up in 1990 and empowered to allocate grants to non-profit institutions and organizations that appear them through the various ministries. The ministries periodically raise the availability of grants and applications.

After receiving the applications, the ministries select the requests, with their comes and those of the Treasury, to the bequests committee, which funnels funds for the approved requests via the ministries. The committee considers some 3,000 requests annually.

The Education Ministry, which was surveyed for this purpose when the Labor government was still in power, was faulted for its handling of such requests. Many bodies whose requests were approved did not receive their funding from the ministry for as long as two years, adversely affecting the projects involved. Dozens of requests were transferred to the committee although they were submitted 10 months late while other requests were not transferred to the committee.

Sloppy controls in allocations from bequests

boards of institutions applying for aid.

In 1994 and 1995, the committee received a large bunch of requests marked as "special requests of the minister." Most of them had been filed late and did not have the required documentation, the report said. Some of these institutions, belonging to the Reform and Conservative movements, had earlier applied via the Absorption Ministry for funding and had been turned down. Their requests were then submitted to the bequests committee by the Education Ministry even though the bodies' activities were not under their purview, and the ministry recommended they be funded.

Requests received by the Absorption Ministry in October 1993 had not yet been completely processed by August 1995 and 50 out of 92 institutions for which grants were approved had not yet received them. This often meant projects were not carried out for lack of funds.

Suspicious of conflicts of interest arose regarding certain senior members at the Labor and Social Affairs Ministry, who were involved with institutions that requested grants. Two of them were also members of the ministerial committee

At the same time, there were "indications of preferential treatment for certain sectors" such as the Arab sector, and "discrimination against other sectors," such as the religious and haredi sectors.

In response, the minister at the time explained that the policy had been to "discriminate in favor of the weak and those on the periphery who had not received in the past." The comptroller ruled that this was acceptable.

There was a suspicion of conflict of interests with regard to some ministry employees, who were on

boards of institutions applying for aid.

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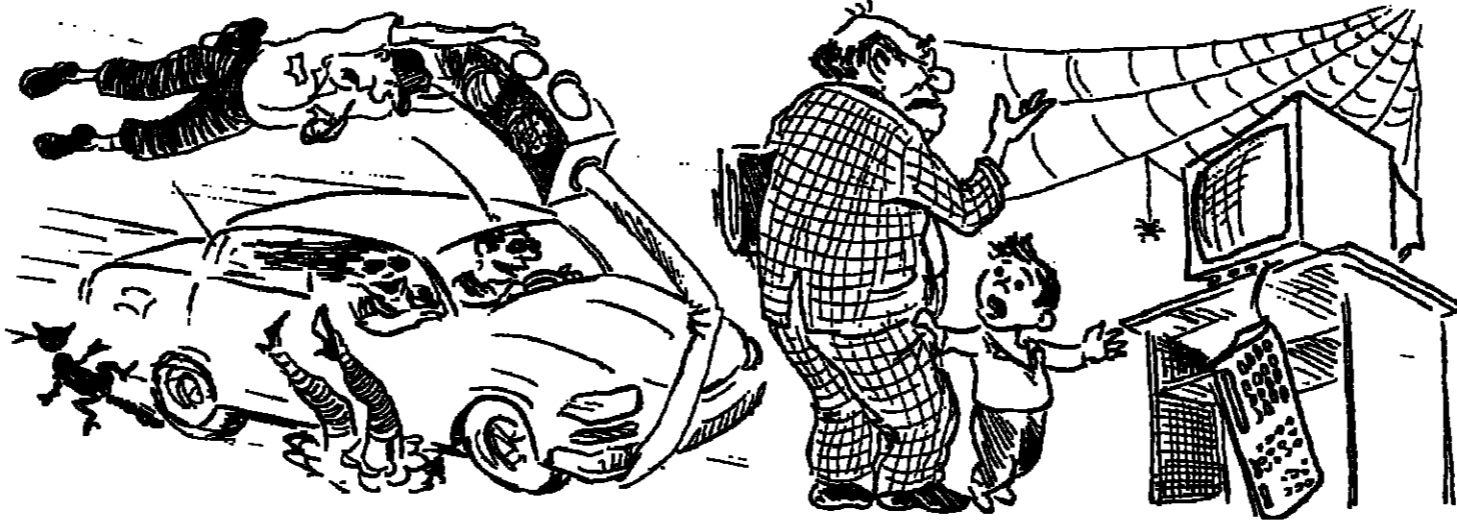
that recommended which requests should be approved.

All three ministries fail to check whether the institutions applying to them had applied to other ministries as well. As a result, many requests were found to be duplicated.

In response, the Justice Ministry said a new application form for grants would be made available by May 1. Applicants would be warned that forms from which details were missing would not be considered. Applicants would be required to get a special serial number from the registrar of associations to receive grants.

In addition, any requests for aid would be brought to the attention of all relevant ministries before the request was discussed by the bequests committee.

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HEALTH MINISTRY

AIDS control, prevention programs deficient

By JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

The Health Ministry has no central body that coordinates the treatment and prevention of HIV/AIDS, and some people fall between the cracks. If an HIV carrier refuses to tell sexual partners of his or her condition, there are ways for the authorities to warn them of the risk, but the comptroller found that this effort is not always made.

In addition, people whose Western Blot confirmation assay - a test given to reconfirm a positive result on an earlier blood test - is inconclusive, have not always been located for a re-test; private labs that do HIV tests are not properly supervised; AIDS patients don't always get the drugs they need; an information campaign to prevent HIV infection among Ethiopian immigrants has taken years to implement; and the safety of lab personnel who test the blood samples is not always ensured.

The comptroller looked at the handling of HIV tests at six of the eight public testing centers, and found that although they are supposed to have a clinical psycholo-



gist and a social worker to help the doctor inform carriers of their condition, most do not. Patients informed they are carriers could, due to the lack of information, infect those with whom they have sexual contact, or even commit suicide out of desperation.

In addition, all but Ichilov Hospital failed to issue a document to those found free of HIV stating they are considered HIV free only up to a certain date, because during a window period of several months they could be infected but the antibodies don't show up in the blood.

Vital medications that can fight brain infections, tuberculosis and conditions threatening AIDS patients' sight have sometimes been unavailable from health funds. Kupat Holim Clalit told the comptroller this was due to inadequate funding.

The ministry's mishandling of HIV infection among Ethiopian immigrants was well documented by the Navon Commission last year. The comptroller adds that immigrant children under the age of nine were not tested upon arrival.

The ministry has also performed poorly in preventing the spread of HIV among foreign workers. The contractors that bring in outside laborers are legally responsible for having them tested for HIV in their native countries and ensuring that they have adequate medical insurance here, but these for-

ign tests cannot necessarily be trusted; the results of HIV tests at private labs here are not necessarily reliable either, the comptroller noted.

The money allocated for HIV prevention and information is inadequate, and even this was not fully spent by the ministry. Most of the funds are used just one day a year - World AIDS Day - rather than to promote awareness all year round. In addition, the ministry's epidemiology department has inadequate and sometimes erroneous information on the number of HIV carriers, even though reporting of such carriers is mandatory.

There are very long delays in investigating complaints of medical negligence, due to ministry red tape and frequent unwillingness by physicians to cooperate with the investigating committees. Of the 79 investigating committees appointed in 1995, only 60 even began to consider the complaints before them; 16 of the 449 committees set up as far back as 1990 still haven't reached any conclusions.

In other matters, the comptroller found that the ministry lacks a

comprehensive national program for kidney dialysis. The demand for this vital treatment is growing because of the aging of the population and the influx of immigrants who need dialysis. There are 2,530 such patients today, compared to only 1,665 in 1990.

No law prevents anyone from opening a dialysis clinic, and the ministry has failed to set down standards and guidelines for the treatment.

For example, the quality of the water used in the process is critical; if it has too much potassium, it can harm the patient and even kill him.

The ministry set NIS 91,000 as the differential payment that the health funds will receive for treating each member that undergoes dialysis for chronic kidney failure. But an independent analysis of the costs found that taking care of a single patient costs the insurer NIS 160,000 a year, creating a disincentive for the health funds to properly care for their members.

In addition, the heavy manpower burdens in hospital nephrology departments due to unrealistic staffing levels set by the ministry

have discouraged some doctors from specializing in this disease.

The ministry has not done enough to encourage organ donations, the comptroller noted, noting that many potential donors are never even identified.

In a study of safety conditions in various institutes the comptroller criticized Kupat Holim Clalit's Meir Hospital in Kfar Sava for inadequate control of anesthesia gas in operating rooms. Over a period of six years, there were so many breakdowns that operating room staffers fainted, suffered headaches and had difficulty functioning during surgery.

The 90-page report makes no mention of the number-one issue looming over the medical system today: the nearly NIS 2 billion deficit caused by underfunding due to defects in the National Health Insurance law.

The comptroller's office explained that it is giving this topic "special attention" because of its importance and that the comptroller will issue a significant comment or perhaps even a special report on it in the coming months.

INDUSTRY AND TRADE MINISTRY

Investment Center squanders grant money

By DAVID HARRIS

The Investment Center of the Industry and Trade Ministry fails to thoroughly check requests for capital investment aid, the comptroller found.

There are lengthy delays between Investment Center discussions of grant bids and their eventual approval. The center does not budget efficiently, and probably awarded grants to companies that were less deserving than those that were rejected. The report was especially critical of the way the center processed the application of the US computer giant Intel, which is making the largest ever investment in Israel by a foreign company (See Page 12).

The principal role of the Investment Center is to approve and distribute investment grants and tax subsidies for new factories.

In January 1996 the Finance and Industry and Trade ministers agreed to set the center's grant budget at NIS 3.59 billion, of

which NIS 1b. would be made available to small and medium-sized factories.

At the same time, the government instructed the ministers to establish a team to re-examine the criteria for awarding the grants and

current rate, there would be insufficient money to last the whole year. By June, the directorate ran out of money. In late August, the directorate requested an additional NIS 880 million from the Treasury, stating there were proposals worth

to the most deserving. The current "first-come, first-served" basis does not guarantee the most deserving companies get funding, she said.

No recording, written or audio, was made of directorate meetings. Because there was such a lengthy lag time between discussing applications and approving them, complex details could have easily been forgotten when the final decisions were made.

The Investment Center noted that it has no control over the pace of applications, which arrive throughout the year.

At the end of 1996, the center began writing minutes of the directorate meetings, with members receiving a copy and approval of applications taking place within two weeks.

In all cases the directorate instructs the relevant ministry officers to investigate a company's output, sales, production, employment details, profits and investments to date, the center said.

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LABOR AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS MINISTRY

Youth service workers seriously overloaded

By DAN IZENBERG

The Labor and Social Affairs Ministry's Adolescent and Youth Service is responsible for boys and girls aged 14 and over who are not in an established social framework - school, work or the army. The Program for the Advancement of Youth in the Education Ministry deals with youth aged 14 to 18 who are in danger of dropping out of school, and with the "hard core" youngsters this age who have not been in any framework for at least a year.

The report found there was overlap between these two bodies in the care of the 14-to-18-year-olds and even disputes between them over who should be responsible for some target populations. The two bodies keep separate databases, which are not coordinated.

The average caseload for youth workers in the local councils is almost twice as high as it should be - 43 clients per case worker compared to the desirable 25. The distribution is also uneven. In some localities, workers treat an average of 14 to

20 clients each. In others, one worker treats 91 to 119 clients.

The situation in the Arab and Druse sectors is particularly severe. In 1995, there were services for youth at risk aged 14 and up in only 18 of the 95 minority villages north of Hadera.

For the 349 disabled candidates for out-of-home placement that were wait-listed in 1996, there were only 111 places available.

None of the 18 hostels for the disabled run by private or public organizations was licensed by the ministry, as required by law, and in only one case did the government sign a formal contract with an operator. The ministry has not yet drafted regulations for the licensing and supervision of homes. Ministry district supervisors are thus overseeing the homes in their areas without any objective criteria.

The ministry sends supervisors to examine safety, food and security in the government institutions, but the supervision takes place almost exclusively in the government homes, as opposed to those run by entrepreneurs or public bodies.

With regard to job retraining programs for the unemployed, courses are generally offered where there were facilities to conduct them, not necessarily in places where the population most urgently needed them.

On average, 44.3 percent of those taking retraining courses found appropriate work, but there were marked differences according to subject and district. For example, 70 percent of those who studies electricity, electronics and hotel work in Tel Aviv found jobs in their area of study. The rate for various courses in other parts of the country was as low as 25 percent.

In response, the Labor and Social Affairs Ministry said the discrepancies between the number of social workers and caseloads in various communities is due to the municipalities' varying levels of resources and that it will ask the Treasury for additional funding.

The ministry also said it is in the process of implementing new programs and expanding services, including youth services, in the Arab sector.

EDUCATION MINISTRY

Plan to computerize schools way off-line

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Education Ministry officials responsible for the program to fully computerize the schools made some serious planning and budgeting errors, and even those schools which received computers now have machines that are obsolete.

The program, launched in 1994, to get 55,000 computers into the schools - or one for every 10 pupils - in five years, was not funded sufficiently. Ministry planners also failed to properly estimate the number of computers needed, which updated figures show to be close to 100,000.

This poor planning means that the "five-year program" will take some 10 years, with those schools that are to receive their machines only at the end of the period put at an educational disadvantage.

The program's slow pace is also leaving some schools with computers that are quickly becoming obsolete.

There is no procedure for upgrading or replacing old computers, and schools that were computerized in the early days of the program now find themselves with machines that are incompatible with newer programs that uti-

lize sound and other multimedia functions. This situation is undermining one of the key aims of the program, which the ministry stated is "to close the gap between the school society and the society in the world around it."

The ministry was also chided for not allocating funding to employ computer technicians to maintain the equipment.

Teachers have not been sufficiently trained in how to use the computers in the schools. While two committees recommended 180 training hours per teacher, teachers are receiving an average of only 89 hours of training.

There have been no guidelines or curricula established for using the computers as an educational tool. Though software undergoes testing and only approved programs may be purchased, teachers and subject coordinators are left to make their own decisions as to which of the dozens of programs to use.

Officials were further faulted for not making the software developers foot more of the bill for the testing. In 1995, the ministry spent NIS 2.3 million on such tests, while the programs' producers paid only NIS 84,000.

AGRICULTURE MINISTRY

Smuggling produce too easy

By JON IMANUEL

In 1994 a unit set up to oversee Palestinian Authority compliance with agricultural agreements. The unit has 135 workers, 29 vehicles and a budget of NIS 15.3 million. However, it works in many respects overlaps that of the existing agricultural inspection authority. Some workers were paid separately for work they did for both the unit and the unit, apparently at the same time.

The production fruit and vegetables in the anomalous areas exceeds internal ads but the mobile units patrolling the Green Line to prevent smuggling are only marginally effective. Smuggling is widespread, and only a small amount of smuggled produce is intercepted.

Defects in the system include the fact that information regarding smuggling investigations is not properly secured. The unit also possesses no list of licensed PA growers with PA licenses to export. Without this information any stamp or identifying number on products by which authorized porters can be monitored, there is a real health risk to the public in the Green Line.

The unit was lax in its inspections. Of 200 trucks it passed the checkpoints in a specific week, only two were examined.

Food impounded by inspectors is supposed to be destroyed, but irregularities were found regarding disposal of this contraband.

The administrators of this unit do not hold regular meetings and in effect "do not function as a well-run professional forum." It is needed is a proper controlling body expert in animal health products and public health - which already exists in the agricultural inspection authority.

On other issues, the comptroller found that special grape farmers who had produced varieties of a certain kind often at beyond what was authorized and sometimes went to farmers who did not produce the kinds of grapes and fruits for which they were receiving grants.

In response, the agriculture ministry said it is studying the possibility of merging the agricultural inspection authority and the control unit. Two sectors oversee the destruction of all suspect produce, which is in accordance with international legal procedures, the ministry added.

On the farmers' hits, the ministry said that, also computer problems, there were errors in the accounts presented to the comptroller. In most cases there was no excess payment, in cases where there was these amounts will be deducted from future payments.

SETTLEMENT LOCAL COUNCILS

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

The comptroller investigated the local councils of two settlements - Oranit and Elkana - and reported on the irregularities she discovered.

In Oranit, she found that the council's annual budgets were being passed late.

Nine of the council's workers received global overtime payments without the sums being properly reported. The council also used the services of an engineering company, and then appointed the company's director-general to the position of council engineer - an obvious conflict of interest. The salary paid to the

Irregularities found in check of two settlements

engineer was also higher than stipulated by Interior Ministry regulations.

The report noted that the council's storeroom had no register recording those who entered it and there was no stock list. The comptroller also discovered hundreds of building violations.

In response, Oranit officials said the town's budget can only be passed after financial grants from the Interior Ministry are transferred. These grants are transferred annual-

ly in June or July, hence the late approval of the budget.

The contract between the engineer and the council was drawn up by the town's former legal adviser, who is now a judge. The engineer's salary is comparable to that paid by other councils, the officials said. In November 1996, the council appointed a storeroom manager who carries out the stock assessment and recording. As to the building violations, many residents destroyed their illegal additions after the council

engineer drew their attention to the violations.

In Elkana, residents owed the council some NIS 390,000 in amonia and water fees.

Only two of nine factories situated in the settlement's industrial zone were properly licensed. A gas station that opened in July 1993 was operating without receiving the proper authorization from the civil administration.

The settlement's sewage, which ran through a treatment facility

before spilling into the nearby wadi, still did not meet government standards.

The report also noted the town's inadequate siren network and stressed the need for police to beef up patrols in the area to improve security.

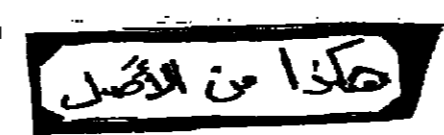
Elkana officials noted that many residents who owe money are in real financial difficulty; nonetheless, the council had informed residents of their debts in writing and had threatened to cut off the water supplies of

those who don't pay their bills.

The majority of businesses in the industrial zone have licenses and the council is dealing with those who have not yet obtained them. In January 1991, the council received permission from the civil administration to operate the gas station, and had been told no other permits were necessary.

Regarding the substandard purification facility, the council said it had contacted government officials and was waiting for inspectors to come and identify the problems.

A new siren network is being installed in coordination with the Civil Guard, the council added.





PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Road project mismanagement cost commuters NIS 8 million

By NINA GILBERT

Mismanagement of a project to expand part of the Tel Aviv-Jerusalem Highway put the public at risk and cost commuters stuck in severe traffic jams NIS 8 million.

The road construction — the addition of a third lane along a 6.5-km stretch from the Shapirim exit to the Ben-Gurion Airport exit — was completed seven months late, the report said.

During some of that time, no work was done at all, and the flow of traffic was seriously hampered. Some of the delay was caused by the need to redo faulty work.

A contract for the project was awarded to a contractor in September 1994.

According to the comptroller's calculations the contractor's bid was 31% percent less than the estimated cost of the project, which had itself been lowballed, as the cost of lighting was not included.

The tender committee, meanwhile, was also not informed that this contractor had completed an earlier project for the department six months late.

The contractor encountered financial difficulties while working on the project and eventually stopped work altogether.

But only in October 1995, when the work was to have been completed, did the department

The Public Works Department said it fixed these faults, but did not keep records of doing so. It thus appears, the report said, "that the correction of the faults was not carried out immediately upon their discovery."

The state comptroller also

All these irregularities led the comptroller to conclude that the PWD was not competent enough to properly manage the project.

In response, the department explained the traffic jams by noting that in other parts of the world parts of roads are closed while road work is being done, and traffic is rerouted through detours. However, in Israel, this is generally not possible and traffic must flow through while roadwork is being done.

A contractor with a poor record was hired for his extremely low bid and then went bankrupt.

finally bring in an additional contractor.

The second contractor, however, was brought in without a tender, at a later point, additional contractors were hired, also without tenders.

A visit to the construction site by inspectors from the comptroller's office revealed serious safety faults "which posed a danger to those using the highway."

The construction area lacked proper signs alerting drivers to the traffic changes and lacked sufficient flashing lights, some of which were not working properly.

faulted the department for the traffic jams caused by the construction.

According to the comptroller, the work was begun on the wrong side of the highway — the Tel Aviv-bound lanes, which have the heavier traffic flow. As a result, heavy traffic jams were caused for more than a year, resulting in an over NIS 8m. loss to commuters.

The report noted that even after the new lanes were opened in July 1996, traffic was still hampered, since one part of the road had still not been completed and construction equipment was still in the area.

TRANS-ISRAEL HIGHWAY

Highway won't ease traffic flow

By LIAT COLLINS

The comptroller gave the NIS 3.5 billion Trans-Israel Highway (Road No. 6) the red light, criticizing almost every aspect of the road, from the planning to the financial aspects of its maintenance.

The report strongly condemns the fact that the plans for the highway — connecting the Beersheba area to the Yokne'am area and the northern border — are not part of a master plan for a road and transport network. It also bluntly states that the highway will not solve transport problems in the long term, because of the predicted increase in the number of vehicles on the road.

The project also ignores the stated policy from the 1970s, which determined that public transport should get preference over private transport, the comptroller said, noting that public transport is preferable both for environmental reasons and to lower the numbers of traffic accidents.

The comptroller noted the huge predicted increase in pollution and noise, and the impact the road will have on land use patterns. She said

the Interior Ministry's planning authority has yet to present a plan to prevent urban sprawl on the land bordering the road, and quotes a Bank of Israel report that warns of both the economic and environmental costs of turning the center of the country into one huge metropolitan area dependent on private transport, instead of developing peripheral areas.

She criticizes the plans for private entrepreneurs to build and operate the highway as a toll road, a decision made by the Finance Ministry despite surveys by the government-owned Trans-Israel Highway Company, which indicated that putting the roads in private hands would raise the costs.

A survey by the Trans-Israel Highway Co., quoted in the report, found that "in no Western country, or even in professional literature, are there examples of toll roads of the size of Road No. 6 for which the tolls collected cover the full cost of construction and maintenance."

It also notes that if alternative roads are toll-free, drivers are more likely to use them, further dropping the income from tolls. The government seems to have recognized this when in June 1996, it

promised to cover 80 percent of the difference between the entrepreneur's operating costs and the estimated income from tolls.

The report censured the Transport Ministry and others for not encouraging the use of public transport, and noted that the common practice of paying workers car allowances combined with the high costs of bus tickets encourages people to use private vehicles.

In response, the Transport Ministry said it is working to promote public transport; that apart from improving the public transport infrastructure it has issued monthly travel tickets and improved information for travelers. The government has also decided to open the field to competition, which, it says, will improve the service.

The Trans-Israel Highway Co. said since Road No. 6 is the first road of its kind here, there are various scenarios regarding its financial future, including the possibility that the state will buy back the highway.

The company, however, believes the tolls would cover the costs of establishing and operating the road.

POSTAL AUTHORITY

Officials glide over proper procedures

By JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

The Postal Authority spent NIS 18,000 to buy a double paraffol for then-director-general Ran Levin to glide in and be photographed for a media campaign promoting the authority. Standard purchasing procedure was ignored, and the purchasing committee approved the expenditure without question.

In the end, Levin never glided. Soon before launching, he was fired by Communications Minister Limor Livnat for serious maladministration involving the purchase and use of the authority's computers.

The authority spent NIS 50 million for equipment and services, of which about NIS 16 million was for the computer communications branch, which employs 71 workers, up from 20 when it was established in 1991. But the authority has never developed a long-term plan for computerization, and a steering committee on this subject hasn't met since 1992.

Some NIS 4.5 million was spent on hardware from one company, based solely on that company's "recommendation of itself." The authority explained that it had no time to solicit bids, as the equipment was needed urgently. In the end, some of the equipment was not unpacked for two years, and other pieces were hardly

used.

Last year, the authority spent NIS 5 million to buy a computer for "urgent" use, even though staffers knew in advance that there were problems adapting existing computers to work with the new one. Because of these problems, for six months the computer wasn't used for its original purpose.

In late 1995, the authority chose programs for developing and managing databases without testing them. Even before one program was purchased, it was known that its newer versions were incompatible with several central computers.

Proper procedures were violated repeatedly in the authority's selection and purchase of computer hardware and software. The comptroller urged the authority, now headed by Moshe Tery, to activate its computerization steering committee and to follow regulations... not glide over them.

TREASURY

Capital markets still awaiting reforms

By DAVID HARRIS

The Treasury did not do enough to reform the capital markets, nor did it regulate the benefits available for encouraging long-term savings. It also failed to ensure the public's interest in a stable insurance sector, the comptroller said.

The costs of managing and marketing savings-linked life insurance — when compared with the premiums in this sector — are far higher than those for deposits in provident and pension funds. Yet, the overall sum of deposits from provident and pension funds are considerably greater than those in savings-linked life insurance plans.

The comptroller noted that for many years the Income Tax and Property Tax Commission offered special exemptions for those insured with managers' insurance and wage-earners' insurance. In this manner, the Treasury has in effect been indirectly subsidizing various programs for managers' insurance and encouraging high wage-earners to purchase managers' insurance despite its excessively high marketing and management costs.

In response, the Treasury pointed out it is still waiting for the cabinet to finish its discussions of the Brodet Report, which suggested reforms in the capital market.

A 1995 report, meanwhile, compiled jointly by the government and Jewish Agency showed that various ministries, especially Immigration and Absorption, Education and Agriculture, were budgeting hundreds of millions of shekels for work that duplicated work being done by the

Jewish Agency.

In many areas where the government and the agency work together, there are no written agreements or joint management of projects. Work is not logically divided, and as such "there is a total lack of clarity in regard to the budget framework, payments and mutual setting of accounts."

Furthermore, there is no coordination of statistical information on new immigrants between the Interior and Absorption ministries and the agency. For example, a team from the Absorption Ministry discovered that in 1994 and 1995 dozens of immigrants "made aliya" a second time and received full rights again.

In the Absorption Ministry's Student Administration there is no written documentation for the transfer of funds between the ministry and the agency. Therefore, the nature, sums and recipients of the funds are unknown. The ministry maintains that some money it has transferred to the agency has not reached its intended recipients.

The Absorption Ministry said it is now negotiating with the agency over many of the issues the state comptroller mentioned. The accountant-general added that a committee has been established to work on certain issues and will report shortly.

Foreign entrepreneurs looking for land to develop may be granted permission to do so without submitting a tender application if the finance minister and relevant other minister (such as Tourism or Industry and Trade) believe the investment is beneficial to Israel.

However, the Treasury has not fixed its role or that of the other ministry in the process, nor is it clear what the government regards as "beneficial." The comptroller cites several examples where permission was given to foreign investors to operate here, without having gone through the necessary financial checks.

The Treasury responded by saying that most of the investigation into foreign investors should be carried out by the relevant professional ministry. The Tourism Ministry adds that the foreign investors targeted are those who will contribute to the Israeli economy, and that the ministry has established a list of criteria for dealing with such investors.



ISRAEL BROADCASTING AUTHORITY

No clear way to rate Channel 33

By LIAT COLLINS

A viewers' survey by the BBC carried out in Jordan in 1995 found that some 10 percent of those interviewed regularly watched the Israel Broadcasting Authority's Channel 33 satellite station, while a survey among Israeli Jews in 1996 showed viewing figures did not reach even 0.5 percent. There is still no rating system by which to judge the channel, the comptroller noted.

Channel 33 broadcasts are aimed primarily at neighboring Arab states and at Russian-speaking immigrants. It also broadcasts from the Knesset plenum and some committees on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays and has light entertainment programs. The report notes that throughout the 13th Knesset and the start of the 14th, there was no signed agreement between the Knesset and the IBA governing

payment for the broadcasts. Although the annual costs were NIS 7 million, the Knesset paid only NIS 1m.

There was also no signed contract between the Absorption Ministry and IBA for the Russian-language broadcast in 1995. The channel broadcasts for "extra" employs 15 people for "extra time," beyond the overtime agreed upon within the IBA, but the IBA was negligent in checking hours reported and the comptroller notes discrepancies for 10 workers. There are also at least six deviations from the ban on close relatives working in the same unit.

The channel also allowed commercial products to be shown in its programming, contravening the IBA ban on advertising, including subliminal advertising. Deviations in the regulations on outside productions were also found.

The comptroller also reviewed

the plan to concentrate the 16 sites in Jerusalem currently operated by the IBA in one complex at the site of the former Sha'arei Zedek Hospital building. The decision was approved in 1994, but poor progress has been made. The report cites problems with records of real estate assets that were meant to finance the project.

The IBA said in response it had held meetings with the relevant bodies and the absorption minister had agreed to budget a certain amount for the Russian-language broadcasts and that the 1998 budget would try to include the costs of Channel 33. Recently the IBA prepared a budget for the station addressing the topic of joint and separate costs.

On the Sha'arei Zedek building, the IBA said an administration had been established to facilitate and speed up the project.

STATE BUDGET

Budget deficit target not met in 1995

By DAVID HARRIS

In August 1994, the government set the 1995 budget deficit target at 2.75 percent of gross domestic product. This target was not met, the first time a government had failed to meet its target since the Budget Deficit Law was passed.

The overall budget for 1995 was eventually set at NIS 163.834 billion, some NIS 11b. higher than the government had intended, with actual spending during the 12 months reaching NIS 147.917b.

In March the government approved a reduction in direct taxation by NIS 1.2b. and at the same time a reduction in the overall budget by the same amount.

Income from taxes totalled NIS 84.402b. a 4% real increase over 1994.

From some taxes actual revenues fell well short of government estimates: the income and property tax shortfall was NIS 2.032b., for example. Some other taxes collected were down

to the accountant-general before July 1 of the given year. However, the 1995 figures were never handed over in full, preventing efficient supervision of

The 1995 budget deficit was

The government is urged to act against pay excesses in the public sector.

NIS 10.745b. compared to NIS 4.708b. the previous year. This was markedly above the government estimate.

The distribution of money to public bodies in the fields of education, culture, religion, welfare, and science was reviewed. In 1995, ministries handed out some NIS 1.931b. to 3,819 bodies, compared to NIS 1.536b. to 4,468 organizations in 1994. The lion's share was paid out by the Religious Affairs Ministry — NIS 782m., and Education Ministry — NIS 780m.

By law each ministry must submit details of these payments

to the accountant-general before July 1 of the given year. However, the 1995 figures were never handed over in full, preventing efficient supervision of

The government is urged to act against pay excesses in the public sector.

the payments.

Thus the Education Ministry, for example, paid out more (NIS 814m.) than the figure recorded by the accountant-general (NIS 780m.).

Ben-Porat says this also occurred in 1994. She also pointed out that the ministries did not differentiate between these grants and payments for services.

The accountant-general said he is aware of the need for improvements, and a committee appointed to examine the issue is due to issue its report soon. Some 287 bodies received

help from two ministries and 72 from three or more. There is a lack of coordination between the ministries, and many of the organizations are also funded by local authorities. The level of internal ministerial supervision was particularly poor in the Religious Affairs and Education ministries.

With regard to government manpower levels, the report notes several decisions in previous years to reduce staffing levels, but says the Civil Service Commission was only able to apply this to 60 percent of the government workforce. While 950 jobs were axed, the comptroller said a further 120 could have been cut. Indeed between 1993 to 1996 the number of government employees increased year by year, from 66,574 to 69,751.

The 1995 government wage bill comprised 17.3% of the total budget, as against 15.8% in 1994. The comptroller urged the government to act against pay excesses in the public sector.

BUSINESS

in brief

Padico: Karni park to open in October

The first factory at the Karni industrial park in Gaza will hopefully be opened in October, Padico CEO Amin Haddad told Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky this week. Padico was appointed by the Palestinian Authority as the management company for the park. Meanwhile, Sharansky has asked the Defense Ministry to consider expanding the Erez industrial area by 2,000 dunams, which could lead to the creation of 10,000 jobs for Palestinians. *David Harris*

Eilat-bound tourists to arrive via Aqaba

Groups of tourists to Eilat are to arrive on flights at the Aqaba Airport, according to Aharon Dekel, chairman of the Eilat Hotel Association. Dekel, who welcomed the move, said the groups would be on flights which also stopped at other Red Sea destinations, such as Hurghada, Sharm e-Sheikh and Taba. The Aqaba Airport is scheduled to become a joint airport for both Israel and Jordan, but these are the first charter flights in which groups of tourists destined for Eilat are to land in Aqaba. *Haim Shapiro*

April saving withdrawals exceed deposits

Savings accounts withdrawals exceeded deposits by NIS 116 million in April, according to statistics gathered from the five largest banks by the Treasury Capital Market, Insurance and Savings department. This compares to a withdrawals excess of NIS 343m. in March and NIS 509m. in February. Since the start of the year, withdrawals have exceeded deposits by an overall NIS 1.032 billion. Index-linked accounts saw withdrawals NIS 78m. larger than deposits; in foreign currency accounts the figure stood at some NIS 37m. *David Harris*

American Colony joins Relais & Chateau Assoc.

Jerusalem's American Colony Hotel has become a member of the Relais & Chateau, an association of small hotels with a special character. The hotel, which grew out of a hostel established by members of a Christian religious group which first came to Jerusalem 116 years ago, has often served as a venue for Palestinian spokesmen. *Haim Shapiro*

Committee approves overlaid-vehicle bill

The Knesset Economics Committee yesterday approved Eli Goldschmidt's (Labor) overlaid vehicles bill for its second and third readings. The bill would allow police to remove overloaded commercial vehicles from the road. In addition to existing punishments, a vehicle with a 15 percent to 20% excess weight would be taken off the road for two months. *David Harris*

Ben-Porat: Gov't aid for Intel was economically unjustified

Backers of decision in previous government dismiss criticism

By DAVID HARRIS

The previous government's decision in 1995 to grant world leading computer-chip maker Intel \$600 million, or 38 percent, of its \$1.6 billion investment at Kiryat Gat is bound to emerge as a negative investment of up to \$345 million, according to State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat's annual report published yesterday.

Ben-Porat accused the directorate of the Investment Center in the Industry and Trade Ministry of approving the biggest capital investment aid in Israel's history, despite a report from the Industrial Development Bank of Israel Ltd. which warned that "the investment is not worthwhile for the economy."

That statement was made, despite taking into consideration Intel's non-binding commitments to make reciprocal purchases in Israel and to allow domestic companies to participate in the latter stages of research and development.

The state comptroller's charges were vigorously rejected yesterday by three of the main government protagonists in the issue: former finance minister Avraham Shohat, ex-Industry and Trade Ministry director-general Yosi Snir and then Investments Center director Moshe Dovrat.

In September 1993, Intel requested permission to expand its Jerusalem integrated circuits factory, which had been established in 1980. Written approval



Yosi Snir: You must look further than the immediate profits. (Debbie Haim)



Avraham Shohat: The benefits of the deal were immeasurable.

was given for a capital-investment aid grant of 38% of the total cost, together with a variety of other benefits.

For various reasons, Intel did not take up that option, but reapplied in October 1995, with a view to "expanding" their Jerusalem factory in Kiryat Gat, a high priority zone under the aid scheme.

At this point, Intel announced its intention to construct a manufacturing plant for flash memory, with annual turnover of approximately \$1b., all destined for export.

The Investment Center asked the Industrial Development Bank to carry out a detailed study of the proposed investment.

Its conclusion was that the factory would actually cause the economy a loss of up to \$231m., including a part of the \$600m. which the government would have to hand over as 38% of the total cost.

When a variety of other variables were taken into account, including a forecasted two-year 25% downturn in the flash memory market, the bank estimated the total losses to the state could reach \$343m.

The company then argued the value-added benefits of the factory after management committed to help the Israeli economy would contribute some \$920m. to the state.

However, the bank said at most one-ninth of this sum was

more accurate, suggesting the overall loss to the state would be an absolute minimum of \$163m.

When the final debate was held on March 25 last year, the Investment Center directorate received a letter from Shohat, also in the names of former Industry and Trade minister Micha Harish and prime minister Yitzhak Rabin placing "great importance on the establishment of the factory in Kiryat Gat."

The directorate then approved the investment with the 38% aid, on the condition the company confirmed its commitment to the Israeli economy.

The high risk contained in such a large investment in a single factory was not sufficiently taken into account, wrote Ben-Porat, who said in her report that canceling the deal would not have had a negative effect on the economy.

"On the contrary," she wrote, "a country that hands out unjustified grants where no full commitment has been made is likely to damage its image in the financial community."

The suggestion that the approval would have a negative effect on the economy was strongly refuted yesterday by Shohat. He maintains a joint report by the Treasury and Industry and Trade Ministry was submitted to the directorate showing the investment would reap some \$50m. for the country.

While the initial agreement was made to "expand the Jerusalem factory" back in 1993, Shohat said many addi-

tional conditions were set to ensure the economic gains would be felt.

"The benefits were immeasurable," added Shohat. "Kiryat Gat, Kiryat Malachi, the Lachish area all stood to gain. There was no way you could weigh this."

Meanwhile, Snir defended the decision to approve the deal, even though he said it was taken before his time.

In office from 1994 to 1996, Snir said the decision to approve was made by Shohat, Harish and Rabin.

"In any case, we couldn't do that much after this formal approval had been granted," Snir said. "When considering the issue, you must look much further than the immediate profits. We were at the height of our work to attract as many huge high-tech companies as possible."

Both Shohat and Snir agreed they were left with no choice over the size of the grant. This was agreed with the company in writing in 1993, and could not be varied.

"When the bank's report spoke of a \$200m.-plus negative investment, we were not prepared to approve it," said Dovrat.

"However, a committee of directors-general reconsidered the issue and got the necessary 'best effort commitment' for the directorate to approve the investment as a positive one. We knew the risks involved, but it was and still is much harder to assess the full extent of the benefits."

Erwin Eisenberg seeks settlement in dispute with family over father's will

By YOAV YITZHAK / Globes and Jerusalem Post Staff

Erwin Eisenberg, scion of Shaul Eisenberg's far-flung industrial empire, is seeking to reach a settlement out of court with his mother, Leah Eisenberg, who is furious at

her son's claim for 80 percent of the late tycoon's estate, sources close to the affair said yesterday.

The row between the two reached a new peak earlier this week when the mother charged in court that her son's claim did not coincide with an earlier copy of her husband's will

and that the latter will's original copy was nowhere to be found.

In the past few days, some of the country's most high-powered lawyers have been trying to reach a compromise among the major contestants for the Eisenberg estate. Former justice minister Ya'akov

Ne'eman, who is advising Erwin Eisenberg, recently met with Dr. Ya'akov Weiroth in order to reach a basic understanding, followed soon thereafter by an out-of-court settlement.

The discussion covered the need to negotiate speedily on urgent matters and to appoint arbitrators at a later stage to handle the feud.

One of the potential arbitrators mentioned during the discussion is retired Supreme Court president Meir Shamgar. The need to reach agreement quickly stems from the sensitive situation in which the Eisenberg group finds itself.

Since the original will is apparently missing, and since it is therefore arguably illegal for Erwin Eisenberg to act on behalf of the estate, he needs to arrive at a speedy settlement so that he can act on behalf of the group in various countries - including India, China and Korea.

Faced with this impasse, Erwin Eisenberg is now willing to waive part of the estate bequeathed to him by his father, so long as an agreement can be concluded quickly.

By ORNA RAVIV / Globes, FELICE MARANZ / Bloomberg and Jerusalem Post Staff

Dutch brewer Heineken has decided to send a senior delegation to Israel urgently in an attempt to salvage its prospective takeover of Netanya-based Tempo Beer Industries.

To achieve that, the company intends to resolve the dispute between Tempo's major shareholders by persuading minority shareholder Moshe Podhorzer to extend the option he gave Heineken and chairman Jack Beer to purchase his shares.

The former announced earlier this week he would not renew that option, which had expired on Saturday.

"Heineken is still interested and negotiations are still going on," spokeswoman Margrieta Meijer yesterday told Bloomberg Business News.

Last night, however, the company threatened to sever its relationship with Tempo in light of the ever-thickening plot surrounding arrangements between the company's two major shareholders.

Headed by a company vice president, the Heineken delegation is expected to arrive here today and conduct a round of discussions with Podhorzer and Beer.

Six weeks ago, following a dispute which went on for years, Podhorzer and Beer signed an agreement according to which Podhorzer granted Beer an option to buy his 44.5 percent stake in the company, provided that Heineken would be his partner.

Podhorzer also insisted that Beer sell part of his own stake to Heineken, and thus in effect relinquish the controlling share to the Dutch.

When the option expired on Saturday, Heineken requested an extension, since it had not managed to reach agreement on all the details of the deal with

Bar. Tempo has the franchise for brewing and marketing Amstel and Heineken beers.

Heineken intended to expand its manufacturing activity in Israel, in partnership with Tempo.

Because of the protracted dispute between Beer and Podhorzer, Heineken informed them more than six months ago that the company would deprive Tempo of the franchise and look into setting up an independent plant here or conversely seek an association with another company.

In view of the damage that move would have inflicted on Tempo, Podhorzer and Beer succeeded in reaching their agreement after several months of negotiation mediated by lawyer Ram Caspi.

ELSCINT LIMITED Notice of Annual General Meeting of Shareholders

Haifa, Israel
May 8, 1997

Notice is hereby given that an Annual General Meeting of Shareholders of Elscint Ltd. (the Company) will be held at the Company's principal executive offices, Mercas Ta'assiyot Mada (Advanced Technology Center), Haifa 31004, Israel, on Tuesday, May 27, 1997 at 3:00 p.m., for the following purposes:

1. Electing nine (9) directors to the Board of Directors of the Company;
2. Receiving and considering the Auditors' Report, the Directors' Report and the Consolidated Financial Statements of the Company and its subsidiaries for the year ended December 31, 1996;
3. Reappointing the Company's auditors and authorizing the Board of Directors to fix their remuneration;
4. Approving the grant of options to the Company's President;
5. Considering and acting upon such other business as may properly come before the Meeting or any adjournment thereof.

Only Shareholders of record at the close of business on April 28, 1997 will be entitled to vote at the Meeting. Shareholders residing in Israel whose shares are deposited with an authorized Israeli agent (bank or broker) and who are interested in voting are requested to present confirmation of such from the agent, detailing the number of those stocks held in their name which were purchased no later than April 28, 1997.

Official notice of the Meeting and a voting card will be sent to all shareholders of record.

By order of the Board of Directors
Orna Bar David
Corporate Secretary

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Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (11.9.96)					
Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS		
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.750	5.000	5.375		
Pound sterling (£100,000)	3.975	4.000	4.250		
German mark (DM 200,000)	1.825	1.825	2.125		
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.825	0.750	1.000		
Yen (10 million yen)					
(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)					
Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (6.5.97)					
CURRENCY BASKET	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Rep. Rates**
	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	3.6521	3.7111	—	—	3.6525
German mark	3.3783	3.4328	3.32	3.49	3.4040
Pound sterling	1.9808	1.9925	1.92	2.03	1.9779
French franc	5.5129	5.6019	5.41	5.68	5.5788
Japanese yen (100)	0.5810	0.5904	0.57	0.60	0.5883
Dutch florin	2.8957	2.7392	2.84	2.78	2.7208
Swiss franc	1.7434	1.7716	1.71	1.80	1.7588
Spanish peseta	2.3114	2.3487	2.27	2.39	2.3332
Scandinavian krona	0.4390	0.4431	0.42	0.45	0.4388
Norwegian krona	0.4742	0.4819	0.46	0.49	0.4788
Danish krone	0.5149	0.5233	0.50	0.54	0.5194
Finnish mark	0.6510	0.6618	0.63	0.68	0.6587
Canadian dollar	2.4497	2.4883	2.40	2.53	2.4676
Australian dollar	2.0216	2.0638	2.07	2.21	2.0410
S. African rand	0.7385	0.7708	0.78	0.78	0.7637
Belgian franc (10)	0.9504	0.9658	0.93	0.98	0.9585
Austrian schilling (10)	2.7887	2.8317	2.73	2.85	2.8115
Italian lira (1000)	1.9810	2.0130	1.94	2.05	1.9985
Jordanian dinar	4.7848	4.8417	4.70	5.02	4.8507
Egyptian pound	0.9800	1.0500	0.96	1.05	1.0382
ECU	3.6247	3.6984	—	—	3.6589
Irish punt	5.0527	5.1749	5.00	5.25	5.1417
Spanish peseta (100)	2.3227	2.3602	2.28	2.40	2.3431

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel.
SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

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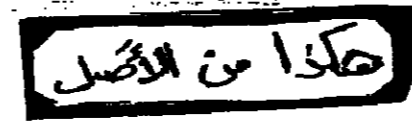
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critics of the Government are on trial for culture...



ISRAELI SHARES IN NEW YORK

LAST CHANGE

AMEX

Table of Israeli shares on AMEX including Am Israel Paper Mills, Amgen, and others.

NASDAQ

Table of Israeli shares on NASDAQ including Amgen, Amgen, and others.

Table of Israeli shares with columns for company name, last price, and change.

Table of Israeli shares with columns for company name, last price, and change.

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Table of Israeli shares with columns for company name, last price, and change.

Table of Israeli shares with columns for company name, last price, and change.

MISHANIM

LEADING ISSUES

LAST CHANGE

Table of Mishanim leading issues including Amgen, Amgen, and others.

Table of Mishanim leading issues with columns for company name, last price, and change.

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Table of Mishanim leading issues with columns for company name, last price, and change.

INTERNATIONAL SHARES

LAST CHANGE

NEW YORK

Large table of international shares on New York exchange including Amgen, Amgen, and others.

Table of international shares with columns for company name, last price, and change.

Table of international shares with columns for company name, last price, and change.

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Table of international shares with columns for company name, last price, and change.

Table of international shares with columns for company name, last price, and change.

TASE ROUNDUP

LAST CHANGE

Mishtanim

253.61 0.68%

Maof

267.00 0.67%

By FELICE MARANZ

Stock indexes fell in Tel Aviv amid concern investors were not buying mutual funds...

Eisenberg's widow Leah has demanded 50 percent of his estate...

The Maof Index of 25 issues fell 0.67% to 267.00...

Investors are concerned about reports that people are not buying mutual funds...

Declining shares included Koor Industries Ltd., which produces some 7% of Israel's industrial output...

Stocks fall as fund deposits decline

Of 953 shares trading across the exchange, more than three times as many shares rose as fell...

There's concern that the wife - if the courts decide in her favor - could decide to sell or change things...

The Maof Index of 25 issues fell 0.67% to 267.00 and the Mishanim Index of 100 issues fell 0.68% to 258.61.

The general bond index rose 0.01%.

Investors are concerned about reports that people are not buying mutual funds...

Declining shares included Koor Industries Ltd., which produces some 7% of Israel's industrial output...

Key Representative Rates

Table of key representative rates including US Dollar, Sterling, and Mark.

NEW YORK MARKET INDEXES

Table of New York market indexes including DJ Industrials, NYSE Composite, and others.

OTHER MARKET INDEXES

Table of other market indexes including FTSE 100, Nikkei, and others.

DOLLAR CROSSRATES (US)

Table of dollar crossrates including Pound, Yen, and others.

US COMMODITIES

Table of US commodities including Gold, Silver, and others.

LONDON COMMODITIES

Table of London commodities including Oil, Gas, and others.

SPOT MARKET METALS (US)

Table of spot market metals including Gold, Silver, and others.

NEW YORK METAL FUTURES

Table of New York metal futures including Gold, Silver, and others.

LONDON METAL FIXES

Table of London metal fixes including Gold, Silver, and others.

PARIS

Table of Paris market data including Gold, Silver, and others.

FRANKFURT

Table of Frankfurt market data including Gold, Silver, and others.

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

London stocks close at third successive peak

LONDON (Reuters) - London stocks were star performers yesterday, closing at a record level for the third straight session...

On currency markets, the dollar weakened against the yen after a news report said Japan, the US and Germany were planning to intervene to sell dollars for yen...

London was lifted by a wave of optimism over the new Labor government's decision to take interest rate policy out of the political arena.

Fears also receded of another interest rate hike in the near future.

It is hard to over-estimate the impact of the move to give the Bank of England independence...

WALL STREET REPORT

Stocks plunge

NEW YORK (AP) - Stocks pulled back sharply yesterday as investors moved to secure more gains from the market's turnaround amid renewed worries the Federal Reserve will raise interest rates to fight inflation.

On Wall Street, the Dow Jones industrial average dropped 139.67 points to close at 7,085.65. The blue-chip barometer had rebounded by nearly 500 points in the last seven sessions.

WHERE TO GO

Museums: TEL AVIV MUSEUM, Andres Serrano: The Morgue, Soviet Photography from the Museum collection, Lucian Freud: Selection of works, Tzvi Hecker: Sunflowers, Prints by a group of Israeli artists, Visual Reality: The domestic and virtual in contemporary Israeli art, HELENA RUBINSTEIN PAVILION FOR CONTEMPORARY ART, Shimon Ben-David and Avram Ben-David, The Inverted Campaign, Hours: Weekdays 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tue. 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Fri. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Meyerhoff Art Foundation, Tel. 02-6519155-6.

HAIFA WHAT'S ON IN HAIFA, dial 04-8374253.

GENERAL ASSISTANCE

EMERGENCY PHARMACIES: Jerusalem: Center Pharm, 20 Yad Hatzitron, 673-1475; Baisam, Salah e-Din, 677-2315; Shuaat, Shuaat Road, 581-0108; Dar Aida, Herods' Gate, 629-2059. Tel Aviv: Superpharm Ministora, 4 Shaal Hamelech, 698-0106; Superpharm Gimmel, 1 Alshmeir, Ramat Aviv Gimmel, 641-7171, Tel. 3 a.m. - 9 p.m.; Superpharm Dal Jabotinsky, 125 Ben Gurion, 548-2040, Tel. midnight; Superpharm Ramat Aviv, 40 Einstein, 641-3730; London Ministora Superpharm, 4 Shaal Hamelech, 698-0115; Ra'anana-Kfar Sava: Merkaz Ra'anana, 120 Ahuza, Ra'anana, 780-3788; Netanya: Netanya, 11 Herzl, 882-2842; Haifa: Sifit Square, 1 Shaalom Alshmeir, 823-5004; Haifa: Sifit Square, 823-5004; Krayot area: Kupat Holim Chalit Zvulun, 192 Derech Akko, Kiryat Bialik, 879-7818; Herzliya: Clal Pharm, Beit Merkazim, 8 Mevot (near Sderot Haganaim), Herzliya Pituah, 855-8472, 955-8407, Open 9 a.m. to midnight; Upper Nazareth: Clal Pharm, Lav Hat' Mail, 657-0469, Open 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.

DUTY HOSPITALS

Jerusalem: Eilat Holim (internal, pediatrics); Hadassah Ein Karem (surgery, orthopedics, ophthalmology, ENT); Shaara Zedek (obstetrics); Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv Medical Center Dana Pediatric Hospital (pediatrics); Tel Aviv Medical Center (surgery); Netanya: Laniado.

POLICE FIRE

100 102

INVESTMENTS

100 102

Vertical text on the left edge of the page, including 'Thursday May 8, 1997', 'king ipo', 'MARKET', 'ENERGY', 'BEST direct'.

Betar take on Mac TA in State Cup semis

Bnei Yehuda face Beersheba in early clash

By DEREK FATTAL

This afternoon's soccer State Cup semifinal double bill at the National Stadium Ramat Gan promises to be one of the most absorbing afternoons in the season's lengthy soccer calendar. Over 40,000 fans are expected to set the refurbished stadium ablaze with color and a fill it with cacophony of sound as they attempt to lift their heroes into the final.

The big clash at 5:30 pm features Betar Jerusalem, already on the very brink of winning the National League, against last year's league and cup double winners Maccabi Tel Aviv, while the opening match, beginning at 3 pm, sees this year's Toto Cup winners Bnei Yehuda take on Hapoel Beersheba.

It is no small irony that the Betars must overcome the very side whose double-winning feat they are hoping to emulate in order to make this one of their best seasons ever. On the other hand, a Maccabi victory will put the Tel Avivians bang on course for salvaging what has proved to be a miserable campaign for the club and coach Avraham Grant.

Assuming that Betar will be crowned league champions shortly, a victory by Eli Cohen's men today will entitle the winners of the Bnei Yehuda and Beersheba clash to compete in the European Cup Winners' Cup, regardless of what transpires in the State Cup final.

Maccabi fans will be delighted with the news that Gadi Brumer looks likely to play, and so lend some steel to a defense that has failed to convince too often this campaign. Betar's Eli Ohana will be aiming to increase his current Cup tally of seven goals, but his coach still has to decide who should partner him in attack. Nir Sevilla is the man on form in the Jerusalem front line at present, with three goals from his last two outings, while Ronen Harazi is still looking to find his old sharpness.

This season's first league meeting between the clubs ended in a 3-3 draw, with Betar celebrating a 1-0 victory in the return match.

There is no question that Hapoel Beersheba have had the upper hand against the men from the Hatikva Quarter, scoring five times without reply in the two most recent league outings between the sides. Nevertheless Bnei Yehuda have already demonstrated a knack for knock-out competition this season that could make nonsense of the league formbook.

Extra time will be played in the event of a tie after 90 minutes, and the ties will be decided on penalties if necessary. The matches will be broadcast live on Kol Yisrael and television's Channel 2.

United still reign

LONDON (Reuters) - The way Manchester United won the English League title on Tuesday without kicking a ball neatly encapsulated this season's race for the title.

United won the league when Liverpool lost 2-1 at Wimbledon and Newcastle drew 0-0 at West Ham on a cold night in London.

Liverpool's failure to take at least a point and Newcastle's failure to take all three meant United's haul of 71 points could not be bettered.

Last season, United won the title with 82 points and were pushed to the last game of the season by Newcastle.

This season, in which all the big teams faltered at some stage, they needed just 71 points and still have a couple of league matches to enjoy before the summer break.

Tuesday's results proved that when the chips were down none of United's rivals were up to the task of maintaining a sustained challenge for the title.

Liverpool, Newcastle and Arsenal have all topped the table during the last nine months but it was United's experience and confidence that finally secured them the championship for the fourth time in five years.

Newcastle manager Kenny Dalglish said after Tuesday's match: "They are the best team with the best players and they have proved it with the points." Liverpool boss Roy Evans added: "It sticks in the throat that United have won it again and not us but they got the points and to do it again is a top-class performance. But we will be back."

Liverpool's challenge ultimately failed because they were too erratic and dropped 21 points at home. Newcastle's challenge spluttered in mid-season when Kevin Keegan had to be replaced by

BRITISH SOCCER - Leicester 1, Sheffield Wednesday 0. Scottish Premier - Dundee United 0, Rangers 1 Celtic 0, Kilmarnock 0

Clean sweep for Maccabi

By ELI GRONER

Maccabi Tel Aviv overcame a frenetic late flurry by Hapoel Jerusalem to retain the National Basketball League title last night, 86-83. The championship was the 37th overall for Maccabi and the fourth straight. The series sweep was the eighth in a row for the champions, a streak spanning four years - Maccabi has won the title 27 times in the last 28 years.

"We were the best team in the league all season and we won a deserved championship," said Maccabi coach Zvi Scherf. He is right, but like Maccabi's season, there were some shaky moments along the way. With the game seemingly in hand 70-48, Jerusalem reeled off an incredible 35-16 run to close the game out.

The spurt was sparked by H. Waldman, whose phenomenal play singlehandedly rallied Jerusalem. Waldman tallied 15 points (5-6 three pointers) on the evening, along with sensational defense on Oded Katash in the second half.

In the first half though, Katash was unstoppable. Given a free reign throughout the playoffs, a confident Katash played as well as he ever has, tallying 20 points last night while dishing off several gorgeous assists. Katash utilized a questionable decision by Jerusalem coach Gadi Kedar to start Papi Turgeman, by abusing Turgeman throughout the half.

Turgeman didn't help Jerusalem on offense either, committing five turnovers in the first 11 minutes helping Tel Aviv jump out to a 26-15 advantage.

Poor decision-making haunted Jerusalem offensively throughout the game. At one point in the second half, Pini Levy, after being on the court for just 30 seconds, pulled up on a fast break for a three-point attempt that missed badly. In addition, Hapoel never tried to take advantage of the fact that Maccabi was forced to play without the suspended Buck Johnson.

Jerusalem's late run coincided with Doron Shefer's fouling out of the game. Shefer - who became only the third player in Israeli basketball history to win titles on two different teams (Hapoel Galil Elyon) - was solid on both sides of the court, playing an efficient point guard and contributing 11 points on offense, while shutting down Adi Gordon on defense.

Gordon never got going on offense, converting his only two field goals of the game in the final minute.

Gordon's poor offensive showing was exceeded only by his nonexistent defense. At various points in the game, Gordon played the mator for Sheffer, Katash, Brad Leaf (16 points) and Borko Radovich (13).

Dan Benigheimer, along with Waldman, paced Jerusalem with 15 points.

Uncool Bulls rally to top Bullets; Rodman ejected

CHICAGO (AP) - The Chicago Bulls lost their cool. They lost Dennis Rodman, too. They didn't lose the game, however, thanks to Scottie Pippen and Michael Jordan.

Pippen capped a 29-point game by making a go-ahead 3-pointer with 43.9 seconds left and Jordan scored 34 points Tuesday night as Chicago opened the Eastern Conference semifinals with a 100-97 victory over Atlanta.

The defending NBA champions rallied from a 16-point third-quarter deficit despite Rodman's ejection for two technical fouls. Toni Kukoc also was assessed a technical, and the Bulls spent a good chunk of the game either whining to the officials or trying to calm each other down.

But not all the Bulls lost their composure.

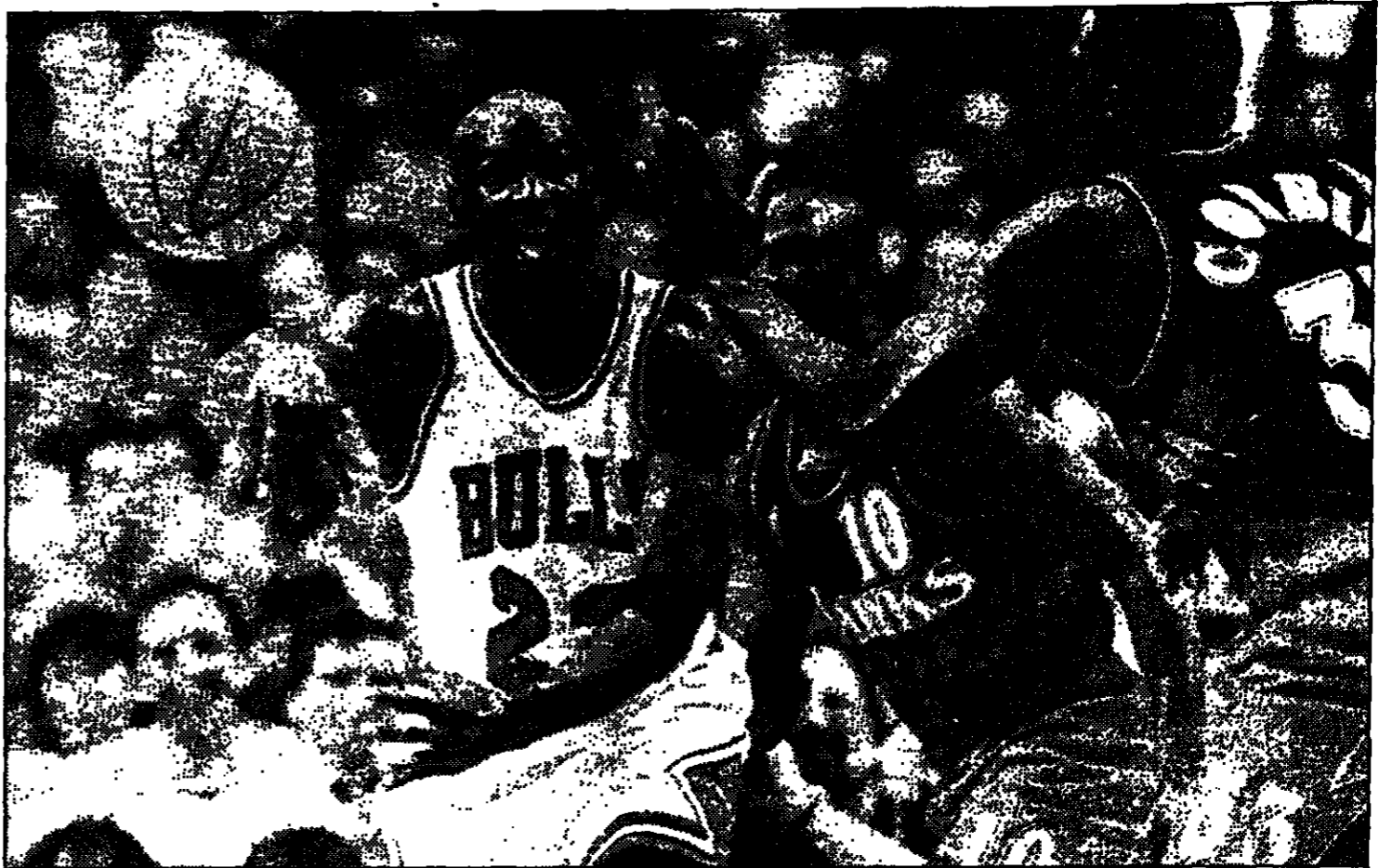
Pippen's sixth 3-pointer of the game, after taking a handoff from Luc Longley and curling around a Longley pick, snapped a 97-all tie and finished the scoring.

The Hawks couldn't take advantage of Longley's two missed free throws with 34.5 seconds left and Jordan's missed layup with 10 seconds to go as Mookie Blaylock spoiled an otherwise outstanding individual performance.

Blaylock, who had career play-off highs with 31 points and 12 rebounds, badly missed a 3-point shot with about 35 seconds left, stepped out of bounds after taking an inbound pass with 32 seconds to go and shot an airball on a 3-point attempt at the buzzer.

Chicago will play host for Game 2 today before the best-of-7 series shifts to Atlanta.

Jazz 103, Lakers 101
Visiting Los Angeles managed to stay with Utah for the full 48



PASSING INTEREST - Bulls' Michael Jordan passes around Hawks' Tyrone Corbin (r) as Mookie Blaylock (10) looks on. Chicago won the second-round match 100-97.

minutes this time but still walked away with a loss.

Antoine Carr made two foul shots with 2.1 seconds left for his only points of the game, and Utah got a break when no foul was called when Karl Malone knocked the ball away from Nick Van Exel on the final play.

Malone scored 31 points. Jeff Hornacek added 21 and John Stockton had 16 points and seven assists for the Jazz, who survived an NBA record-setting 7-for-7 3-point shooting effort by the Lakers' Robert Horry.

Shaquille O'Neal, miffed about comments made by Jazz center

Greg Ostertag after Game 1, outscored his rival 25-4 and out-rebounded him 12-4. Byron Scott added 24 points.

The game featured 18 lead changes and 17 ties - quite a difference from lopsided Game 1 that the Lakers had less than 48 hours to prepare for and lost 93-77.

NBA PLAYOFF GLANCE
SECOND ROUND

Tuesday's results: Chicago 100, Atlanta 97. (Chicago leads series 1-0); Utah 103, LA Lakers 101 (Utah leads series 2-0).

Last night: New York at Miami, Seattle at Houston (Houston leads series 1-0).

Red Wings poised to finish Ducks

ANAHEIM (Reuters) - Sergei Fedorov and Vyacheslav Kozlov scored within 24 seconds of each other as the Detroit Red Wings scored four unanswered goals for a 5-3 victory over the Mighty Ducks of Anaheim and 3-0 lead in their Western Conference semifinal series on Tuesday.

Detroit can advance to the conference finals with a win in Game Four today.

Mike Vernon made 20 saves for the Red Wings, who outshot the Ducks, 49-23, including 3-12 over the final two periods.

Igor Larionov and Doug Brown scored 3:25 apart late in the third period to lift the Red Wings into a 3-3 tie and Fedorov's second goal of the post-season put Detroit ahead for good. He took a pass from Larry Murphy at the Anaheim blue line, skated to the top of the left faceoff circle and blasted a low slap shot inside the left post.

Kozlov's second goal of the game and fifth of the series just 24

seconds later made it 5-3. Kozlov skated down the left side and faked a pass into the slot before cutting across the top of the crease and beating Ducks goaltender Mikhail Shtalenkov with a backhand.

Rangers 3, Devils 2
Host New York grabbed a 2-1 lead in their Eastern Conference semifinal.

Esa Tikkanen scored two goals and Wayne Gretzky had a goal and an assist to lead New York.

Gretzky should have had another assist after making an amazing no-look pass early the first period that sprung Russ Courtnall on breakaway. But Devils goaltender Martin Brodeur stopped the shot.

NHL PLAYOFF GLANCE
Conference Semifinals
Tuesday's results: NY Rangers 3, New Jersey 2 (NY leads series 2-1); Detroit 5, Anaheim 3 (Detroit leads series 3-0).

Last night: Buffalo at Philadelphia (Philadelphia leads series 2-0); Colorado at Edmonton (Colorado leads series 2-0).

Motevassel, Weidenfeld carry the Israeli flag

By ORI LEWIS

Seventh-seed Oren Motevassel and Raviv Weidenfeld carry Israeli hopes into today's quarterfinals of the Eisenberg Jerusalem Open \$50,000 Challenger tennis tournament.

In yesterday's last-16 action, Weidenfeld came through a tough three-setter to beat South Africa's Robbie Koenig 6-4, 3-6, 6-4, while Motevassel had relatively little trouble beating James Sekulov of Australia 5-2, 6-4.

Fourth-seeded veteran Italian

Gianluca Pozzi fell in three sets 6-7(3), 6-2, 6-2 to Zimbabwe's Wayne Black, but fifth-seed Luis Herera of Mexico and No. 6 Goichi Motomura survived to take their allotted places in the last eight.

Herrera overcame a tough challenge from Noam Behr, who led 5-2 in the first set and then 5-2 in the tie break before going down 7-6(6), 6-4.

Motomura was taken all the way in his 7-6(3), 4-6, 6-2 win over India's hard-fighting Mahesh Bhupathi.

Other winners yesterday included Venezuela's Maurice Ruah who put paid to Eyal Erlich's challenge with a 6-3, 6-2 win. Mose Navarra of Italy who beat Martin Hromec of Slovakia 7-6(3), 6-3 and Romania's Gabriel Trifu who easily disposed of Italian Nicola Bruno 6-1, 6-4.

Today's play resumes at 13:00 at the Israel Tennis Center courts in the capital. The quarterfinal lineup is: Weidenfeld against Trifu, Black vs. 5-Herrera, 6-Motomura vs. Ruah and 7-Motevassel v. Navarra.

Czechs beats Canada, Sweden tops Finland

HELSINKI (AP) - Vladimir Vujtek had three goals and an assist as the Czech Republic beat Canada 5-3 yesterday, damaging its chances of reaching the finals at the World Hockey Championships.

In yesterday's other match, Sweden routed Finland's plans for the gold medal game with a 5-2 victory.

With one more round to be played in the six-team medal pool, Sweden has six points, Russia five and both Canada and the Czech Republic have four. But with the victory, the Czechs have an advantage in the standings over Canada. The US has three and host Finland only two points.

The Czechs had a good game plan and made it very difficult for us," said Canada's coach Andy Murray. "I'm not happy with our efforts. In order to beat the defending champions, one has to play much better."

Czech coach Slavomir Lener said: "With the two points, we are still alive."

The match was marred by a massive brawl on the ice with two minutes remaining. It took 10 minutes for the play to resume as four players from each side received game misconduct penalties.

Later, the eight players - including the three-time scorer, Vujtek - were suspended from the rest of the tournament because of the fight. Rob Blake, Owen

Nolan, Travis Green and Shean Donovan won't be able to play in Canada's remaining game against Russia tomorrow.

After the match, the coaches accused each other of instigating the fight and pursuing foul tactics.

The Canadians blamed the Czechs of rough play.

"There's not a guy in the dressing room that doesn't have an ice bag on him" said Canada's forward Keith Primeau after the game.

The Czechs rallied in the first period as Canada profited from a confusion in front of their goal when Jiri Vykoukal scored into his own net at 2:34. The opener was awarded to Canada's Rob Zamuner who last played with the puck.

But the defending champions struck back on a power play goal at 7:00 of the period when Vujtek banged in an ideal cross-ice pass from the right side of the crease. A minute and 38 seconds later, Martin Prochazka put the Czechs 2-1 up by sweeping the puck in as he was left alone in front of Canada's goalie Sean Burke.

Zamuner retied the result at 14:01 of the period by wristing in a close range rebound from the bottom of the slot. The Czechs were 3-2 up at 8:55 of the middle period as Vujtek fired in a rebound from close in front.

Canada could have tied a minute later, but Czech goalie Roman Cechmanek made a spectacular glove save.

Major League Baseball

American League				
East Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Baltimore	20	9	.680	-
New York	17	15	.531	4 1/2
Toronto	15	14	.517	5
Boston	14	18	.467	6 1/2
Detroit	12	19	.387	9
Central Division				
Cleveland	15	14	.517	-
Kansas City	15	14	.517	-
Milwaukee	13	14	.500	1/2
Minnesota	13	19	.406	3 1/2
Chicago	10	19	.345	5
West Division				
Seattle	19	12	.613	-
Texas	18	12	.571	1 1/2
Anaheim	14	15	.483	3 1/2
Oakland	15	17	.469	4 1/2
National League				
East Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Atlanta	22	9	.710	-
Florida	17	14	.548	5
Montreal	16	14	.533	5 1/2
New York	15	17	.469	7 1/2
Philadelphia	10	20	.333	1 1/2
Central Division				
Houston	18	14	.563	-
Pittsburgh	16	15	.516	1 1/2
St. Louis	14	17	.452	3 1/2
Cincinnati	10	21	.323	7 1/2
Chicago	8	22	.267	9
West Division				
Colorado	21	9	.700	-
San Francisco	19	11	.633	2
Los Angeles	17	13	.567	4
San Diego	11	18	.379	9 1/2

Tuesday's AL results: Cleveland 5, Texas 4; Kansas City 7, Boston 2; NY 7, Minnesota 2; Baltimore 8, Anaheim 4; Toronto 2, Detroit 1 (10); Oakland 6, Milwaukee 5; Seattle 7, Chicago 6.

Tuesday's NL results: Colorado 12, NY 11; Pittsburgh 4, Florida 0; St. Louis 4, Atlanta 3; Philadelphia 5, Houston 1; Chicago 2, San Diego 1; Montreal 10, San Francisco 3; Cincinnati 3, Los Angeles 2 (11).

Sports Editors: Joseph Hoffman and Ori Lewis

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CRITIC'S CHOICE

DANCE

HELEN KAYE

The Batseva Dance Company's premiere's week continues with Amanda Miller's challenging Toy Artist and Jiri Kylian's hauntingly beautiful No Sleep 'Til Dawn of Day...

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Tonight is your last opportunity to enjoy Sharon Rostorf, Larissa Tatev and Svedana Babajanov within the Israel Sinfonietta Beersheba Three...



Choreographer Jiri Kylian's 'No Sleep 'Til Dawn of Day' is performed in Tel Aviv.

repetition of a few tried-and-true tricks, the filmmakers trust in the ensemble's chemistry, and set them loose to try on new roles. The strength of both pictures lies in John Clee's script...

TELEVISION

ELANA CHIPMAN

The guests tonight on Middle East Television's Two Fingers From Shilon at 9:30 p.m. include the singer Meir Ariel and his wife, a martial arts champion...

FILM

ADINA HOFFMAN

*** FIERCE CREATURES - This all-too-accurate spoof of corporate take-over culture set in an English zoo, reunites the cast of A Fish Called Wanda...

**** BIG NIGHT - Short-story-sized, modestly budgeted and codirected in sweet, labor-of-love style by actors Stanley Tucci and Campbell Scott...

TV

CHANNEL 1

6:30 News flash 6:31 News in Arabic 6:45 Exercise Time 7:00 Good Morning Israel

EDUCATIONAL TV

8:00 Family Ties 8:45 Medicine Demystified 9:00 Arithmetic 9:25 Reading 9:45 For the very young

CHANNEL 2

15:30 The Adventures of Asterix 16:40 Friends of Shosh 16:58 A New Evening 17:34 Zap Around the Country

CHANNEL 3

16:00 Cartoons 18:30 From Day to Day 17:30 Panorama 18:30 The Second Neighbors

CHANNEL 4

6:15 Today's Programs 6:30 Tricky - cartoon 7:00 Breakfast Magazine 9:00 Meetings

CHANNEL 5

14:30 To Tac 15:00 Soccer - State Cup semifinal, Bnei Yehuda vs. Hapoel Beersheba, live

CHANNEL 6

7:00 Good Evening with Guy Pinco (rpt) 7:30 Love Story with Yossi Siyas (rpt)

CHANNEL 7

14:00 Holy Koran 14:05 Cartoons 14:45 Curiosity Show 15:10 They Came from Outer Space

CHANNEL 8

6:00 Great Houses of the World 6:30 VIP 7:00 The Ticker (rpt)

CHANNEL 9

14:00 Holy Koran 14:05 Cartoons 14:45 Curiosity Show 15:10 They Came from Outer Space

CHANNEL 10

14:00 Holy Koran 14:05 Cartoons 14:45 Curiosity Show 15:10 They Came from Outer Space

CHANNEL 11

14:00 Holy Koran 14:05 Cartoons 14:45 Curiosity Show 15:10 They Came from Outer Space

CHANNEL 12

14:00 Holy Koran 14:05 Cartoons 14:45 Curiosity Show 15:10 They Came from Outer Space

MOVIE

MIDDLE EAST TV

7:00 TV Shop 14:30 The 700 Club 15:30 The Moonies

MOVIE CHANNEL (4)

11:30 Thicker Than Blood (1993) (rpt) 13:05 Seating Stars 13:25 The Funny Farm (1982) - a young comediante tough competition

CHANNEL 1

15:30 The Adventures of Asterix 16:40 Friends of Shosh 16:58 A New Evening 17:34 Zap Around the Country

CHANNEL 2

6:15 Today's Programs 6:30 Tricky - cartoon 7:00 Breakfast Magazine 9:00 Meetings

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CHANNEL 12

14:00 Holy Koran 14:05 Cartoons 14:45 Curiosity Show 15:10 They Came from Outer Space

PRIME TIME TV

Table with 8 columns (1-8) and 6 rows (19:30-23:00) showing TV programs and their corresponding channels.

Feelin's last film. With Roberto Benigni 23:00 The Tonight Show with Jay Leno 00:30 Late Night with Conan O'Brien

6:00 Open University (rpt) 6:00 Prehistoric Predators (rpt) 6:00 Plants and People: Toxus

6:30 Bodies in Motion 16:00 Bodies in Motion 16:30 NBA Playoff

6:00 Great Houses of the World 6:30 VIP 7:00 The Ticker (rpt) 7:30 NBC Nightly News

6:00 Great Houses of the World 6:30 VIP 7:00 The Ticker (rpt) 7:30 NBC Nightly News



CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

- ACROSS 1 Sarah gets depressed and jaundiced (6) 4 A weapons expert is protesting hotly (2,2,4) 7 Doctor competes to make films (6) 10 Hedonist demands a fish caudist in French relish (8) 12 Try to sell a bird (4) 13 Symbol King Charles has acknowledged (5) 14 Complain if it transmits BSE (4) 17 Maybe retired salesman's exciting experiences (12) 20 Neat description of the leading stockman (4,2,6) 23 Eggs left in a cricket ground (4) 24 False statement about cellulose (5)

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers and some filled-in letters. Includes a 'SOLUTIONS' section with answers for the crossword.

QUICK CROSSWORD section with a grid and a list of clues for across and down words.

MOVIES section listing various films, TV shows, and their broadcast details, including titles like 'The English Patient' and 'The Saint'.

NEWS

in brief

Border first-aid stations being considered

Israel and Jordan are considering the establishment of first-aid stations along the border, Health Minister Yehoshua Matza and his Jordanian counterpart Ashraf Kurdi announced yesterday, after they met at the World Health Assembly in Geneva. According to the ministry spokesman, the atmosphere of the meeting was "very warm and friendly." *Judy Siegel*

MDA adds more medics

Twenty more medics were put on Magen David Adom ambulances yesterday, bringing the total to 93. The organization has asked the government for 120, so that ambulance driver/medics will not go out on call without either a volunteer or a professional medic on board. To pay for the extra staffers, the government allowed MDA to raise its charges for those who call for an ambulance, which excludes road accident victims. These fees currently cover only half of the cost, MDA says. *Judy Siegel*

Menahem Ben-Sasson new HU rector



Prof. Menahem Ben-Sasson was chosen rector of the Hebrew University yesterday, replacing Prof. Yehoshua Ben-Arye. Ben-Sasson, who specializes in Jewish history, said that he intends to see to it that the university maintains its place at the top of the academic community. Ben-Sasson, 45, has a PhD from the Hebrew University and has been a member of its faculty since 1985. He has served as assistant dean of the School of Humanities and headed the Ben-Zvi Institute. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

Memorial ceremony on the Internet

A memorial service marking both Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day and Remembrance Day for the Fallen of Israel's Wars uniting Jewish youth movement members here and abroad will be broadcast live via the Internet today starting at 7:30 p.m.

The main ceremony will be held at Ammunition Hill in Jerusalem, with parallel events in New York and London. Israel Scouts and Young Judea members in the US and the Zionist Youth Federation in Britain will be represented, sending a message of mutual goals on the basis of the "optimistic values of Zionism, Judaism and pluralism." The event can be viewed at the Internet site <http://www.virtual.co.il> on the home page Atid. *Judy Siegel*

Computerized licensing phone line launched

The Transport Ministry yesterday launched a computerized phone service for many of the vehicle licensing services it operates. By calling (03) 502-7555, 24 hours a day, one can renew a driver's license or vehicle registration, receive a duplicate of either a license or registration document, or report a lost license or an address change. The service also provides various types of information pertaining to the Licensing Bureau. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

Ichilov doctor found guilty of assault

Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court yesterday found Prof. Moshe Lazar, head of the optic medicine ward at Tel Aviv's Ichilov Hospital, guilty of assaulting a Bulgarian doctor with whom he had been romantically involved. Lazar claimed unsuccessfully in his defense that Dr. Sanzana Tuchva had attempted to perform oral sex on him as he was driving her from Ichilov, and that he was forced to strike her to prevent a traffic accident. The court ruled that, whatever the circumstances, his use of force was unjustified. *Itm*

Winning cards

Here are the results of yesterday's Chance draws: 1) the queen of spades, king of hearts, 7 of diamonds, and 9 of clubs; 2) queen of spades, 10 of hearts, king of diamonds, and 7 of clubs.

CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA JERUSALEM

Notice to the Public

Visa Reception Hours

Effective May 19, 1997, and until further notice, non-immigrant and immigrant visa services for walk-in public will be limited to the following days:

NON-IMMIGRANT VISAS: Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 8:30 to 11:00 a.m.

IMMIGRANT VISAS: Mondays and Thursdays from 8:30 to 11:00 a.m., or by appointment.

Tuesdays - petitions (form I-130) only, 8:30 - 11:00 a.m.

East Europe Holocaust victims get Congress boost

By HILLEL KUTLER

WASHINGTON - The campaign to have compensation paid to Holocaust survivors living in Eastern Europe reached Capitol Hill yesterday, with members of Congress urging Germany to make payments. The American Jewish Committee, which is leading the move, said that after numerous appeals to German officials, it is taking its case to Congress and to the press because Bonn is unresponsive. "We came to the conclusion that

the problem was not going to be seriously addressed," the organization's president, Robert Rifkin, told a press conference.

The AJC is seeking to have Germany provide the same compensation to the 20,000 Holocaust survivors living in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union that it does to survivors elsewhere. Germany had a long-standing policy of not paying compensation to the first category of survivors, because it believed the funds would end up in the hands of the Communist regimes. But its policy has not changed since the fall

of the Berlin Wall, and that has the AJC concerned. The group is now making the argument that, while the survivors go unpaid, about 3,300 veterans of the Waffen SS, along with their heirs, now live in the US and continue to receive pensions as a result of war-related injuries. It published an advertisement to that effect in yesterday's *New York Times*.

New York Congressman Gary Ackerman, a leading supporter of the AJC's campaign, said he is confident that Bonn will see reason.

"We are not up to any legislation. We are hoping the government of Germany... is going to be supportive of our request, that their understanding is deep," Ackerman said. "We're not interested in anything punitive. There is reason to be hopeful that they fully understand the issue."

He said he is encouraged by Chancellor Helmut Kohl's quick agreement to Ackerman's request that the German list of Waffen pensioners in the US be provided to the Justice Department so that it could be searched for potential war criminals.



Making peace

Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani greets Greek Orthodox Patriarch Diodoros I yesterday, before their meeting at which he tried to mediate the dispute between the Patriarchate and the Moslem Wakf. He also visited the Wakf yesterday. Kahalani predicted it would be difficult to restore the status quo without bloodshed. The ministry announced after the meeting that it is clear the Wakf had occupied two rooms belonging to the Patriarchate, but suggested a satisfactory compromise might be the payment of compensation to the Patriarchate. The dispute over the construction of toilets at the adjacent mosque is more difficult to resolve, the ministry said. The Christians maintain that the toilets are being built over the roof of the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, which if true, would constitute a serious affront to the sanctity of the church and a breach of the status quo. (Text: Haim Shapiro; photo: Brian Hendler)

Hammer pledges school trip 'revolution'

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

A "revolution" in school trip procedures to assure maximum security and safety was promised yesterday by Education Minister Zevulun Hammer - just before the State Comptroller's Report, which criticized existing school trip procedures, was released. Hammer said the comptroller's report and the Pressler Commission report on the March 13 massacre of seven schoolgirls at Nabarayim both indicated that, for several

years, trips had taken place that violated ministry guidelines.

"There is no room for the 'Trust me' and 'It'll be okay' attitudes when it comes to such an important and sensitive area," Hammer said.

Recommendations from the two reports that will be implemented soon include the establishment of a central body to coordinate issues relating to school trips. A 24-hour command center will be established to deal with any problems that arise, and efforts will be made to ensure chaperones are equipped with weapons and communications equipment.

Hammer asked Michael Gal, a reserve colonel and former director of the Jerusalem Education Authority, to supervise the new arrangements.

Eitan: Highway will worsen road problems

By LIAT COLLINS

Environment Minister Rafael Eitan said yesterday the fact the State Comptroller's Report severely criticizes virtually all aspects of the Trans-Israel Highway strengthens his opinion that it will not solve the country's transport problems and that funds should be invested instead in developing public transportation. Speaking at a conference in Jerusalem on transport issues, Eitan said: "The report confirms what I have said for years: This highway is redundant and will not solve - and will probably worsen - the country's traffic problems, while causing irreversible harm to the open landscape, environment, agriculture and natural assets."

He said it is not too late to stop the work on the road.

Former environment minister Yossi Sarid also strongly opposes the highway.

The Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel held a press conference on the subject and a demonstration against it.

"The state comptroller gave the road a ticket," said SPNI director-general Eitan Gedalyzon. He said the report had listed all the major problems that the society has been warning about.

SPNI is calling for a rail service between peripheral towns and the center of the country and to encourage public transport by changing taxes on private vehicles and replacing car allowances with a general travel allowance.

WEATHER Jerusalem 13-27

Hails	16-24	Tiberias	17-31
Afula	15-28	Samarra	14-27
Tel Aviv	17-24	Jerusalem	13-27
BeerSheva	13-30	Dead Sea	20-33
Eilat	20-32		

Forecast: Further rise in temperatures.

AROUND THE WORLD

	LOW	HIGH	WIND	WEATHER	
Amsterdam	12	54	14	07	cloudy
Berlin	10	41	12	04	clear
Buenos Aires	16	81	29	84	clear
Calcutta	26	84	20	84	clear
Chicago	06	43	20	62	rain
Copenhagen	03	36	16	67	cloudy
Frankfurt	08	43	13	56	cloudy
Geneva	08	43	13	56	rain
Hong Kong	22	80	10	78	rain
Jakarta	27	85	18	84	cloudy
Lahore	18	84	23	84	cloudy
London	12	59	11	60	clear
Los Angeles	18	84	23	84	clear
Madrid	10	62	10	72	clear
Montreal	01	34	14	57	clear
Moscow	07	42	25	70	cloudy
New York	17	62	25	70	cloudy
Paris	05	41	11	62	clear
Rome	10	60	20	68	cloudy
Saigon	02	38	06	43	cloudy
Sydney	10	68	25	79	rain
Tokyo	20	88	25	79	cloudy
Toronto	04	32	10	50	clear
Vienna	11	52	15	59	cloudy
Zurich	04	38	06	46	rain

IAF hits Hizbullah again in Lebanon

By DAVID RUDGE

The IAF struck at Hizbullah targets north of the security zone yesterday for the second straight day, following fighting on Tuesday night in which at least two gunmen were killed.

The IDF Spokesman said that the planes attacked terrorist targets in the eastern sector and that the pilots reported direct hits. All the planes returned safely to base.

Reports from Lebanon said there were two sorties against targets in the Iqlim al-Toufah region, following a similar strike in the Jezzine region on Tuesday. There were no reports of casualties.

The fighting on Tuesday night occurred in the Kantara region. A paratroop unit in the Wadi Saluki area encountered a terrorist squad and opened fire. Two gunmen were killed and several others wounded.

Other Hizbullah units opened fire with mortars and light weapons at the IDF troops and a nearby South Lebanese Army position in an apparent effort to cover the retreat of the squad, IDF and SLA gunners returned fire and IAF helicopter gunships were called in. There were no casualties among IDF or SLA troops.

Military sources said that some of the long-range Hizbullah fire had originated from inside villages north of the zone, in violation of the Grapes of Wrath understandings.

The five-nation monitoring group established to supervise the understandings convened at UNIFIL's headquarters in Nakoura yesterday to discuss complaints by Israel and Lebanon.

Ministry hunts illegal workers

Dozens of Ethiopian youths, who received tourist visas from the Foreign Ministry to come here as part of a group of pilgrims, deserted the group and are illegally trying to find jobs here, the Interior Ministry said.

Ministry officials and police went to the group's hotel yesterday and found all the youths had disappeared. However, two returned to the hotel while the officials were still there and, in an attempt to escape, one fell to the ground from her fifth-floor room. She was taken to Hadassah-University Hospital in Ein Kerem.

Police arrested two Ethiopians who came to visit other members of the group yesterday. Both have been working here illegally, one for the Nigerian Embassy.

Eyasu Ghebrememari showed police a diplomatic identification card. The Interior Ministry lodged a complaint against the embassy, where he was a driver. (Itm)

THIS WINTER - HEAD SOUTH!

Israel's Southern Landscapes

by Aviva Bar-Am & Miriam Shalom

Your personal guide to Eilat and the Negev. Another outstanding guide by these two veteran travel writers. Aviva Bar-Am is well known to The Jerusalem Post readers from her lively family travel columns. Dozens of family hikes and easy nature trails; fascinating car trips throughout the Negev; sensational walks off the beaten track; visits to ancient Biblical, Nabatean and Roman sites; explore Bedouin culture and modern settlements. Includes a unique English-Hebrew dictionary of flora and fauna. Highly acclaimed book. Softcover, 318 pp., with full-color illustrations.

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